

Solar Return Report

for John Doe
Mar 05, 2021
08:22:32 PM MDT
Colorado Springs, CO



This sample report compliments of:

Matrix Software
6212 NW 43rd St. Ste B
Gainesville, FL 32653
352-373-1504

The Solar Return Chart

Astrologers use a number of techniques for forecasting, primarily Transits, Progressions and Returns, particularly the Solar Return. This is the first report writer to provide a detailed interpretation of the Solar Return chart, both as an independent chart and in relationship to the natal chart. For those who are interested in technical details, the program provides a list of the planets' positions in the natal chart and the Solar Return chart.

Solar Return charts are calculated for the place where you are on your birthday. Check the Solar Return data on the lower right hand portion of this page to see that the location and date are correct. Please note that the Sun may return to its birth position the day before or after your actual date of birth. Therefore, a difference of one day is not uncommon. You can see the position of the Sun, is the same for both the natal chart and the Solar Return chart.

John Doe

Mar 06, 1900
10:51:07 AM MST +07:00
Colorado Springs, CO
104W49'15", 38N50'02"

Solar Return Chart

Mar 05, 2021
08:22:32 PM MDT +06:00
Colorado Springs, CO
104W49'15", 38N50'02"

Planet	Sign	Position	House	Planet	Sign	Position	House
Sun	Pisces	15°Pi44'	10th	Sun	Pisces	15°Pi44'	06th
Moon	Taurus	27°Ta38'	12th	Moon	Sagittarius	16°Sg11'	03rd
Mercury	Aries	03°Ar46'	11th	Mercury	Aquarius	18°Aq28'	05th
Venus	Aries	25°Ar17'	11th	Venus	Pisces	10°Pi41'	06th
Mars	Pisces	04°Pi35'	10th	Mars	Gemini	01°Ge08'	08th
Jupiter	Sagittarius	10°Sg11'	06th	Jupiter	Aquarius	17°Aq46'	05th
Saturn	Capricorn	03°Cp50'	07th	Saturn	Aquarius	09°Aq00'	05th
Uranus	Sagittarius	12°Sg26'	06th	Uranus	Taurus	07°Ta48'	08th
Neptune	Gemini	24°Ge13'	01st	Neptune	Pisces	20°Pi27'	06th
Pluto	Gemini	14°Ge42'	12th	Pluto	Capricorn	26°Cp09'	04th
Midheaven	Aquarius	24°Aq40'		Midheaven	Cancer	04°Ca27'	
Ascendant	Gemini	17°Ge54'		Ascendant	Libra	03°Li55'	

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The Solar Return Chart

by Ray Merriman

Welcome to your Solar Return! The interpretations given herein apply to your year ahead, based upon the principles outlined in *The Solar Return Book of Prediction* by Raymond A. Merriman (Seek-It Publications, 1977, West Bloomfield, MI). In addition, there is a great deal of new material added just for this custom program!

The Importance of the Solar Return Moment "Being There on Time"

The exact time of one's solar return is a sacred annual event for each individual. It happens at only one specific moment each year. It is at that moment - and only that moment - in which the Earth/Sun relationship is exactly the same as when you were born. Such a moment constitutes an "event", and as with all events, this one too is the basis for a horoscope of import.

However the importance of this horoscope is unique only to the individual to whom it applies. The quality of that "moment" (i.e. the time of one's solar return) becomes the "seed" of that annual cycle. It is the basis for a horoscope that will describe the astrological factors in effect for that one-year cycle. A "moment" of such importance favors a certain mind-set of the individual as it occurs. This is especially true if one accepts the premise that thought creates (or influences) reality. If every moment of time has its own unique quality, then one would want the "quality" of the solar return "moment" to be special in a favorable way, especially since it becomes the horoscope for the year in that person's life.

Given this premise, the individual is encouraged to enter the solar return moment with a sense of reverence. The individual is encouraged to put some thought and effort into assuring that this moment is somehow empowered, infused, with an energy or thoughts consistent with what that individual would want to experience in the coming year.

What should one do at this moment? That of course is up to each individual (you). Obviously it would not be a favorable omen if you engaged in an argument, or sat home brooding, or went to work in an atmosphere of frustration or boredom. Such experiences at the time of your solar return would likely set the foundation for your mind-set for the entire year - and it would be negative.

The following ideas are intended only as suggestions. They take into account the premise that your solar return is the most personally sacred of all days of the year for you. Therefore, going into the moment of a solar return, you are advised to plan something special, something ideally that would "empower" that moment for you. A ritual of some sort might be a good idea.

For instance, you might take into account your location-to-be at that moment. Choose some place special, some place in which you are comfortable, happy, and in harmony with. Perhaps it is near a lake, ocean, river, or mountain. Perhaps it is on a beach or in a forest. Or perhaps it is in a favorite room.

Set the "stage". Perhaps you wish to have a candle burning, and/or music playing. Perhaps the direction you are facing (North, East, West or South - facing the Sun, or the Moon) has special meaning to you. Perhaps there are artifacts (i.e. pets, jewelry, stones) that have personal meaning, and you wish to display them in your "circle." Perhaps there is a special person whom you have decided to share this moment with.

The setting (if effected) should be completely set at least ten minutes prior to the solar return moment. As you enter the 10 minute time band leading into the solar return moment, you may consider beginning a meditation. How one meditates is completely individualistic. Perhaps you prefer to just enter a very relaxed state. Perhaps you like to chant. Perhaps you use visualization or affirmation exercises. If the latter, then after achieving a state of relaxation, you might visualize the areas of interest coming up in the next year. In this visualization exercise, you might try to see yourself happy and successful in each situation.

This meditation should last into - and slightly beyond - the solar return moment. Once the moment has passed, and the meditation is complete, you are encouraged to give thanks. This may be done in a prayer, or whatever form is sacred to you. In this way, you bring a gentle closure to the sacred moment which has just passed, a moment which has now become the foundation for the one-year cycle about to begin.

You cannot be late for this moment. Otherwise, you might be symbolically late throughout the entire year. Do not take this moment in time lightly. Otherwise, all of your affairs may be symbolically taken lightly all year. The solar return is best viewed in the spirit of a pilgrimage, or a mission. It is the most important "holiday" of the year to you. It is the one time during the year that you are "connected" to the Infinite through the special relationship of the Earth and Sun. It is a moment when you are potentially in tune with your destiny, which is signified by the Earth/Sun relationship. The Sun is what you are becoming (the future, your growth potential). The Earth is where you have incarnated (present, your being). Give it the reverence it is due.

General Overview for the Year

At the time of your solar return, planets are positioned throughout the sky in a system known as "houses." Houses are simply a 12-fold division of the sky as seen from the location of your solar return.

These 12 houses are furthermore divided into three types: angular, succedent, and cadent houses. Each of these types have certain general meanings. The more planets you have in a certain type of house, the more it points to a certain type of year about to unfold. The character of the year will be shaped greatly by which house types have the most - and the least - number of planets.

In this calculation, both your natal and the solar return planets are used, as they fall within your solar return horoscope.

The majority of your natal and solar return planets fall in:

Cadent Houses : Your solar return chart shows a majority of planets in the cadent houses. This suggests a year of flux as far as your affairs in the world are concerned. This is more so the case if you also have Mutable signs on any angles in this chart. It may also indicate a year of mental activity and preparation for something in your future (beyond the current year). You may end up viewing this as a year of "training," apprenticeship, or some sort of preparation for another phase soon to appear in your life. Many of your plans will likely change, and you might not feel so much in control as usual, but if you are adaptable (and conditions will be such that

this is advised), then many favorable alternatives to your current approach to life will arise. If, on the other hand, you are not adaptable, then this situation generally indicates a year of irritation and frustration, for all significant affairs which you enter into seem to be with others who are uncooperative, or with unstable situations over which the you have little control. Unless you wish to work on special mental projects, a majority of planets posited in the solar return cadent houses is not the most favorable condition. All cadent houses are the twelfth house of the angular house which follows. Hence an overriding majority of planets here can suggest the undoing of your former and current efforts (shown by angular houses). With this set-up (unless there is some sort of balance shown elsewhere, or else a writing project is contemplated), you might seriously consider traveling elsewhere for your solar return event, somewhere that will move the majority of planets out of the cadent houses, and perhaps into angular houses (i.e. eastward). It is best to consult with a trained and qualified professional Astrologer for assistance in this matter. It is also advisable to make time available for meditation or daily contemplation during this year if you decide to keep this chart, i.e. not travel elsewhere for your birthday.

At best, the majority of planets in your cadent houses favors writing, teaching, and traveling ventures. It could indicate favorable legal matters, depending upon which planets are in or rule your ninth house. It may also indicate many experiences of inspiration, and even moments of a joyful outpouring of bliss (compassion) for others. It could be a time of great spiritual awareness. At worst, it suggests you have a great desire for change, but no real change is effected. It is thus a potentially restless period in which your direction in life is not very clear. It may also correlate to illness, possibly induced by psychological stress. You are advised to watch your diet carefully, and stay with an exercise program.

The House Containing the Sun

The Sun is definitely the most important planet (star) to consider in the interpretation of solar returns, for the whole chart is based upon its principle. It is the only placement which is always identical (by longitude) in the natal as well as the solar return chart. Its house position shows where the greatest growth may take place during the year and where one may express the self creatively. It also denotes the area of greatest recognition as well as the area where the individual will "identify" the self this year. It is an indication of success according to house placement -- an area where the person may "shine" and show honor, a place where the individual may take pride in his or her accomplishments.

The houses have basically the same principles in the interpretation of a solar return chart as they do in a natal chart. The only difference is that the solar return houses are temporal in nature, and thus the actual interpretation of their meaning will be slightly modified because of this factor.

The Sun, at the time of your solar return, falls in the 6th house.

6th house : Great growth may take place in regard to one's health and work matters, service given to or received from others. The year emphasizes the nature of one's work -- the craftsmanship involved in it (if any) and the value of one's creative expressions. You may tend to be very creative in applying your craft or skill, should you have one. Much recognition for

your talent may come to you if you do have a talent, particularly if the Sun trines the Midheaven. This is a year in which you might enjoy great personal satisfaction from your work, assuming your work has a creative challenge to it.

If your work is not meaningful to you, then you might find yourself seeking creative means of escape from it. This is the year you crave to identify yourself with your work, and if you cannot do this favorably, then instead of good health, you may experience a series of ailments that are related to job stress. During the year you may also experience fears concerning marriage and partnerships and the possibility of deception through partners. If your partnerships are very important to you and you are currently encountering stress, then you may wish to consider traveling for your birthday and moving the Sun to the 5th or 7th house. You are advised to consult a well-trained, professional astrologer for assistance.

Cusp Conjunctions of Solar Return or Natal Planets

An area of life is highly emphasized for the year of the solar return if a solar return or natal planet conjuncts any house cusp. The orb of the conjunction is approximately 3 degrees, 45 minutes, either side of the house cusp. The house system preferred (default) by the author is Placidus, Tropical method.

The planet making the conjunction describes the nature of activities - events, conditions - that tend to unfold in the coming year. This planet's nature is highlighted as being prominent for this year.

In your solar return chart, you have the following planets conjunct a house cusp:

Natal Moon on the 09th house cusp:

This denotes where many changes -- and hence, events -- may occur for you during this year. This is an area where you may have great needs, especially emotionally. Your public image for the year may be effected by circumstances that unfold in this area of life. It also indicates the areas of life in which you may form significant relationships (intimate ones) for the year. It can indicate a potential partnership or marriage in that area of life during the year. It may also indicate an area of life where dependencies upon, or with, other people may form, and these dependencies may not be healthy for you if a high degree of trust is not present. Personal qualities exhibited in this area of life are sensitive, caring, emotional, and perhaps fickle and restless.

The 9th house pertains to your long distance travels, legal decisions, publishing, and educational pursuits, as well as in-laws and second marriage, if it applies. It also deals with philosophical matters like religion and "the meaning life".

Natal Mercury on the 07th house cusp:

This denotes an area of life in which correspondence, writings, business deals and transactions, signing of papers, and areas of current mental or intellectual interests may lie this year. It describes the areas in life in which you may make deals. New ideas may be expressed or learned here. In addition, you may be of service to others in this area of life. It is in these areas that you may be called forth to deal with younger people. In short, this is where a great deal of your mental energy is spent in the next year, and where communications skills come in very handy. It presents ample opportunities for learning. The qualities exhibited in this area of life are intelligence, knowledge, communicative but perhaps critical skills.

The 7th house (Descendant) pertains to your marriage and partnerships (including business); it also pertains to others who represent or misrepresent you (lawyers, spokespersons, open enemies).

Solar Return Venus on the 06th house cusp:

Relationships, love matters, romantic interests, compatibility and harmony with others is highlighted in this area of your life. It shows an area where you may experience popularity, as well as favorable developments in finances, valuables, and possessions. It denotes where you may exhibit good taste -- or style -- for the current year. It shows where you may find compatibility or acquire something of value. It also denotes the areas in which others are likely to show favor to you. It may be that you find things which are pleasing to your nature, i.e. a sense of beauty, in this area of life. It may indicate areas wherein you come across artistic and creative, or meet such types. More significantly it will show where you can make contacts -- and the types of contacts -- that you may use later on, either for yourself personally, or to function as a mediator or go-between for others. The qualities you tend to exhibit in this area of life are graciousness, diplomacy, sociability, and possible stubbornness, jealousy, and possessiveness.

The 6th house pertains to your health and work setting. Regarding work, it deals with "how" you work and with whom you work, and who works for you or with you.

Natal Mars on the 06th house cusp:

These are areas of life where you are likely to initiate new ventures. These are areas where you may initiate a pioneering spirit and eagerness to try new things, and if favorably placed and aspected, then success is very possible; if afflicted, then you must guard against an over-impulsive nature which could lead to failure of pursuits. This is an area of great motivation and activity -- an arena of "action." It also denotes where you tend to be competitive, or meet with competition from others. Furthermore, this shows where you are likely to experience discordance with others, and possibly engage in quarrels or disputes. It may be wise to utilize great caution and self-control in these areas and relationships ruled by these areas, as you may tend to be over-impulsive and rash here. The qualities you tend to exhibit in this area are assertive, competitive, driven, but perhaps argumentative and pushy.

The 6th house pertains to your health and work setting. Regarding work, it deals with "how" you work and with whom you work, and who works for you or with you.

Solar Return Mars on the 09th house cusp:

The 9th house pertains to your long distance travels, legal decisions, publishing, and educational pursuits, as well as in-laws and second marriage, if it applies. It also deals with philosophical matters like religion and "the meaning life".

Natal Saturn on the 04th house cusp:

This signifies the area in which you are likely to experience many obligations and commitments to others; areas of great responsibility, demands, and consequent seriousness. Much work, self-discipline and control are required in the matters in this area, and without proper attention, these matters could very well prove to be burdensome and the cause of both delays and personal disappointments. If handled properly, then you may establish the foundations of a long-term cycle. It can also represent the beginning of a long, beneficial relationship in this area of your life. But if patience, self-control and discipline are not exercised here, then much frustration may be encountered due to set backs and delays in the realization of your goals. Furthermore, friendships may prove to be burdensome rather than helpful in pursuits involving this area of life. It is also possible that matters from the past come back into your life here. Dealings with older people and those in positions of authority, and activities involving government or law enforcement agencies could also arise if they pertain to this area of life. Remember to be totally accountable in these areas. There are no magical qualities about the conditions ruled by this set up. This area is reality, and as such, may represent losses or setbacks if not handled responsibly. The qualities you tend to exhibit in this area are serious, studious, goal-oriented, responsible, but perhaps pessimistic, critical, and judgmental.

The 4th house (I.C.) pertains to your home and your family; also your basic needs, your inner self, the "real you." This has to do with your domestic setting, the people you live with, and your parents.

Solar Return Saturn on the 05th house cusp:

The 5th house pertains to your lovers, children, and people you socialize with (i.e. party with). It also has to do with speculative ventures and pursuits of fun and entertainment. It also rules creative pursuits, but mostly it has to do with your capacity for enjoyment of life and relationships with children.

**Perceiving Reality and Relationships:
Planets in Aspect to the Solar Return Horizon**

Since the time and location of the solar return set up a structure (astrologically) for which an experience will occur that the individual will relate to, the foundation of that structure becomes extremely significant. This structural foundation is symbolized by the angles of the horoscope, the axes of the Earth, in which all the zodiac and all of the planets combine within. The relationship of these axes (angles) to the planets -- both natal and solar return planets-- give special meaning to the structure of experience the native will undergo during the period of the solar return's influence (one year).

A planet (solar return and natal) in close aspect to the solar return horizon (Ascendant-Descendant) -- orb no more than six degrees -- affects the nature of how one

perceives reality, how one projects the self, what one considers important in dealing with others, and the behavior and activities which one expresses in the world during the year. It also describes how one tends to handle situations as they arise during the year.

The following represents a brief description of the planets (solar return and natal) in close aspect to the Ascendant/ Descendant axis in the solar return wheel (plus means trine, sextile and conjunction aspects; minus means square and sometimes conjunction aspects):

Natal Mercury Conjunct Descendent (*Orb: 0°09'*)

Mercury in harmonious aspect to horizon: This year is favorable for communications of all kinds: writings, speeches, business transactions, negotiations, sales, and reading. The mind is highly alert and active, and very ripe for new learning - whether intellectually or in terms of learning a new skill. It is also favorable for teaching a skill to others. You are encouraged to make deals with others, as everyone (especially you) tends to benefit. It is also favorable for working with young people, doing any kind of detailed or analytical projects, and purchasing a new computer, computer products, or automobile. You tend to exhibit excellent organizational skills.

Return Mars Trine Ascendant (*Orb: 2°47'*)

Mars in harmonious aspect to horizon: This is a year of great motivation to do things successfully. You seem highly charged and energetic, and very self-directed. Your pioneering spirit can be a great aid in starting a particular (or many) new ventures. You seem eager to try new things. One area that may be of great benefit is physical exercise or athletic competition - or competition of any kind this year. You tend to fare very well in such endeavors. This indicates a year of great activity, and one not given to boredom.

Return Saturn Trine Ascendant (*Orb: 5°05'*)

Saturn in harmonious aspect to horizon: This is a year of great accomplishments. From these accomplishments may come a title of prestige (i.e. president, vice-president, etc.). You tend to command more respect as well as authority, and you get it. You can handle more responsibilities now because you tend to be more organized and disciplined. This is a year of great maturity and professional recognition. If you have earned it (i.e. prepared well), you will get it. Long-term and positive cycles may be initiated now. It is also a time to begin realizing your objectives and goals in life. Your destiny and purpose seem clearer now. Dealings with older people, or people in positions of authority, go well now.

**The Significance of Vocation and Family:
Planets in Aspect to the Solar Return Meridian**

A planet in close aspect to the meridian -- Midheaven and I.C. axis -- describes influences upon your vocation and home or family matters. It may also describe your spiritual impetus in the coming year and sense of purpose.

You have the following planets in close aspect to your solar return meridian this year.

Natal Mercury Square Midheaven (*Orb: 0°41'*)

Mercury in discordant aspect to meridian: Numerous deals and/or agreements seem to go awry this year. Misunderstandings seem to undermine your business and family efforts, and it is necessary to stay clear and current with others. There may be difficulties with co-workers who seem uncooperative.

Return Venus Trine Midheaven (*Orb: 6°13'*)

Venus in harmonious aspect to meridian: This year favors financial gains and income opportunities. Many new and favorable contacts may be made in your profession, so you are encouraged to develop relationships which you think have possibilities leading to professional or financial growth. There is much support for your ideas and talents. In the context of a group, or teamwork setting, you are the crux of much harmony, displaying an uncanny ability to resolve conflicts so the goals of the group can be met smoothly. In fact, you seem to have the ability to turn opponents into allies, to make an apparent negative into a positive. Support comes from the home front as well. There is much love and sharing possible within your family structure. If you wish to purchase or sell a home this year, you may realize great value or profit. Romantic liaisons are also possible and it may signify a year of entering into marriage or business partnerships and/or agreements. This is a very favorable set up, and if the aspect is not exact (within 1 degree), you may wish to travel a short distance (i.e. probably less than 300 miles) to bring it closer to being exact. The more exact this planetary aspect is to the meridian, the more powerful this planet's nature is likely to be in your life this year. Consult a qualified professional astrologer for assistance in this matter if you are open to it.

Natal Mars Trine Midheaven (*Orb: 0°08'*)

Mars in harmonious aspect to meridian: This year highlights a strong drive to accomplish goals in work, to succeed in vocational projects. You seem very energized by your work, and the more you do, the more energy you get. Work may turn you on. It is as if you have a passion for attaining things this year. Should you wish to become more independent at work - perhaps even begin your own enterprise - this year is favorable for such an effort. It also suggests faring well in any area of competition. Work is not the only area in which things get done - so too are projects in the home. Perhaps there is a remodeling or building project you have in mind. It may also be favorable for the procreation of a male child. Financially this may be an exceptional year.

Natal Saturn Conjunct Nadir (*Orb: 0°37'*)

Saturn in discordant aspect to meridian: This year may seem like a struggle. Tasks are difficult to complete, either because you lack motivation to finish, or because of a series of obstacles arising which cause delays. Some of these obstacles may be in the form of other people - people who may be critical in their judgment of your efforts, or people who are in a

position to delay the results or rewards of your efforts. Patience is necessary, as well as the realization that the more time it takes someone to accept your ideas, the more time you have to either perfect your efforts further, or to work on other projects. There is a danger, however, that your efforts will be rejected in total, or in part. Perhaps you should be certain that you are not in danger of wasting your time before you begin such projects, i.e. get a contract to do the job before doing it. The worst possibility is that someone asks you to do it over again in a different way, or to modify it somehow, in a manner that requires as much work as you have already done. In addition to these things at work, there is also a possibility of a setback in the home or with a family member. This may not be a favorable year for relocation, building a home, or taking on a new job (unless your current position is just too frustrating). This set up portends some difficult conditions during the year. It may be wise to consider traveling elsewhere for your solar return in order to remove this planetary aspect to your meridian. If you are open to this idea, you are advised to consult with a qualified professional astrologer for assistance.

Return Uranus Sextile Midheaven (*Orb: 3°20'*)

Uranus in harmonious aspect to meridian: This may be a year of a windfall financially or professionally. A major shift in one's work - and hence one's income - is possible. Sudden opportunities arise to move in a new direction professionally, and you are encouraged to explore this possibility. It could open up new ground for you, and be quite exciting. It may also lead to changes in residence. Any dealings with computers or electronics are highlighted favorably. Developments here may be favorable to your work or career. Developments with new or old friends may also be positive, particularly as they apply to your career or work prospects. Work seems to be a real "turn on" now, as new challenges arouse your sense of adventure. You may be very inspired, so do not be afraid to try new things.

Being in the Flow: Solar Return Planets Related to their Natal Positions

Some years we feel totally in synch with certain aspects of our nature, and some years we feel completely out of synch. Such periods may show in the relationship of your solar return planets to the natal planets of the same type. Although specific aspects between the two (solar return and natal planet of same type) are most powerful, a simple analysis of gender can be quite revealing. Generally speaking, if the solar return planet is in the same sign as your natal counter-point, you tend to be very much in synch with that planetary principle. If they are even in the same gender (Earth-Water are Yin, or Feminine, while Fire-Air are Yang, or Masculine), there is the sense of being compatible and in synch with this planetary principle. However, when the planet of the same type are in different genders, and especially if square or semi-square to one another, we may feel awkward and out of synch with that principle.

We will now examine the gender relationships between the solar return and natal planets of the same type, and see the areas in which you feel in synch with your natural rhythms, and which areas you may feel out of synch with those rhythms. In those cases where the two actually make an aspect to each other that aspect is listed. Sextiles and Trines tend to be favorable, as do most conjunctions. The squares and oppositions may be more discordant, although the opposition benefits by being in the same gender in most cases.

Moon to Moon, Different Gender : Obstacles, conflicts, and awkwardness in your emotional life may be felt this year. This may result in tension and discomfort with those close to you. You may tend towards moodiness, and your traits and mannerisms seem to upset those who are close to you. This may be a period of social discomfort, frustrations in the domestic realm and with members of the family, associating with those who do not fulfill your emotional needs (you may feel hurt and/or angry at these people). This may be a year of inner struggles, blockage of your basic psychological urges, and role disparity leading to erratic behavior.

Mercury to Mercury, Same Gender : This may be a very busy year, with many decisions having to be made. Mentally, you are very sharp. You tend to communicate ideas very effectively, getting your ideas across to others quite adeptly. You may be very persuasive, and hard to disagree with. If you are inclined towards business, then it may be a year of much activity and several transactions. If you are inclined towards travel, especially short journeys, then there may be much travel - perhaps business-related. It is a favorable year for reading, learning, teaching, and in general, getting your ideas across to others, or being stimulated by compatible ideas from others.

Venus to Venus, Different Gender : Inharmonious situations with those whom you love may be experienced this year. It portends a time of disagreements, or differences in desires with those whom you want to please. Generally speaking, this is a year of incompatibility with others, social differences, discontent with your appearance and/or style and taste, and not being able to acquire things that give you pleasure. There may also be a great deal of indecisiveness and hesitation in making up your mind.

Psychological conflicts regarding personal values may arise, which could cause some embarrassment. There may be problems figuring ways to please others. You are advised to be more firm and at the same time compromising with others, seeking those means that will provide the greatest balance and harmony in your life, and also to avoid displays of pomp and arrogance which will be upsetting to others you may be trying to please or impress. Chill out, and understand you may not be able to please others all the time - nor will they always be able to please you.

Mars to Mars : When Mars aspects its own natal position, it indicates a year of much impulsiveness and daring (ad)ventures; everything becomes intensified, and you may be eager (even over-eager) to start new projects!

Mars to Mars, Different Gender : A tendency towards carelessness leading to accidents and/or disagreements (arguments) may highlight this year. There is a tendency for rashness and bluntness, perhaps causing offense to others. You are advised to be cautious of jumping into new things without thinking carefully (and consequently letting others down as you then jump out just as fast). You may lack foresight, thereby leaving new projects unfinished. There may be problems with self-assertiveness, obstacles in the success of new ventures -- perhaps even

catastrophes of sorts. You may also feel over-stimulated and/or excited. You are advised to think before acting, to use discretion and care in all projects, especially new ones, and to practice safety in all of your affairs and activities where danger of accidents is even remotely possible. It may not be favorable to take an aggressive or competitive stance with others this year, as you are out of synch with your basic physical instincts.

Keeping a Diary of Your Solar Return Experience

Astrology is a language of symbols. It is also a study of time. At any given point in time, astrological symbolism is present which assists in the understanding of that time.

Throughout our life, people come in and situations arise. On the surface, these people are indeed people, and these situations are indeed specific, identifiable conditions. However, these people and these situations are also symbolic of lessons in life which each one of us is working on. Our experiences with these people and these conditions afford us an opportunity to understand ourselves more fully, to get a grasp on our patterns, and possibly to make a conscious effort to break those patterns if we so wish.

In the course of your solar return day, you will come into contact with people and situations. You will experience certain conditions that arise in your life. And you will react as well as interact with these people and circumstances. You will have impressions and make judgments concerning these events and interactions. In some cases, you will react favorably, and judge them as positive experiences. In other cases, you may react more critically, and judge them less favorably.

The moments of these experiences and these interactions with others during the solar return day can be progressed into the future of this year. Basically the premise is this: whatever you experience during the solar return day will symbolically represent the nature of your experiences during the solar return year. Furthermore, the time of these experiences - whether external or internal - will relate to a specific period in the year when that "symbolism" will likely repeat. The formula is the same as used in the calculation of the solar return Moon. That is, every two hours of time from your solar return represents one month of time from the date of your solar return. In the same token, approximately every four minutes of time is the equivalent of one day in the solar return year.

Therefore it can be very enlightening to carry paper and pen with you on the day of your solar return. Mark down the time in which things happen during this day. In fact, you may want to keep a very detailed daily record of what happened as it goes along. It is also a good idea to plan things during the day which you know will be favorable and enjoyable, as that will set the tone of a favorable and enjoyable activity later on this year.

To briefly illustrate, let us assume your solar return occurs at 6:00 PM. At 8:00 PM, the circumstances that you experience (in the external world, or your interior world) will be symbolic of what is going on in your life about one month after your birthday. If you went out and had a wonderful dinner with someone you love, then perhaps one month later you will find your life very wonderful, almost like being out for a wonderful dining experience.

The daily record should begin six hours before your solar return, and continue 30 hours afterwards. The six hours before are symbolic of the three months leading up to your birthday. Even these events and circumstances are symbolic of what you have already gone through, and

seeing the symbolism helps put the recent past into perspective. The six hours following the 24 hours of the birthday are also important. They refer to the momentum of this year carrying into the next solar return, and your ability to make the successful transition from one year's issues to the next.

Choosing One's Solar Return

One of the most exciting facts about solar returns is that you may actually choose your own horoscope wheel for the year! Your choice is limited, as might be expected, by both certain mundane as well as astrological factors. From an astrological point, your choice is limited to the angles and house placement of planets as well as rulerships, which covers quite a bit of territory. Your choice does not consist of what relationship (aspects) the planets will have to each other or to your other natal planets -- only their relationship to your solar return angles and houses. From a mundane point of view, your choice is limited to your means and willingness to be mobile at the time of your solar return. The angles and houses are directly related to your location at the moment of your solar return; hence, your freedom and willingness to travel to specific location will influence just how much choice you have in creating your own chosen horoscope for the year. And another limitation, of course, is your knowledge and ability to work with solar returns, for without this knowledge you have absolutely no choice in the matter whatsoever.

What you can determine, then, are the axes of the Earth -- the horizon and meridian of the solar return chart. The actual moment of the solar return will not change -- cannot be changed; but the local mean time (LMT) and consequently the True Sidereal Time of the solar return can be chosen; hence, the angles and houses -- the "structure of the experience" in the forthcoming year -- can also be chosen.

In choosing your solar return chart for any given year, there are two basic questions you might ask: first, "What area of life do I want to highlight (in a positive manner) this year?," and secondly, "What are my boundaries, or limitations, in traveling at the time of my solar return?" Obviously if the most astrologically desirable place to celebrate your solar return is somewhere in China, a combination of financial, governmental, and time factors may make that choice an impossibility. So you must work within the boundaries of your means, or those means placed upon you by "outside" forces.

In answering the first question, you should remember some of the basic rules presented earlier. For instance, a balance of planets in the different house types is desirable; a majority of planets in angular houses - or at least three personal planets posited there -- will indicate a "significant" year; an overabundance of planets in cadent houses will tend to indicate the opposite -- a year of changes and/or preparation for future years.

Locating planets in harmonious aspect to an angle is most desirable, and so too is the positioning of benefics close to a house cusp -- especially in that house which pertains to your areas of interest for this year. Another desirable placement is a harmonious aspect between a planet in a particular house to the planet that rules that house. If you are able to arrange for a combination of these factors to occur, according to the house chosen to be highlighted, then it is a favorable indication that matters ruling that area of your life will flow successfully in the coming year.

There are, of course, some factors that will inhibit even the finest of house and angle arrangements. If the aspects between your solar return planets to each other, and even to your natal planets, are discordant according to the expressions you wish to highlight, there is not much that can be done to "assure" their favorable expression this year. At best, you can "lessen" their potential negative manifestation by traveling somewhere that will position an angle to make a "soft" (harmonious) aspect to one of the planets involved. For example, if there is a T-square in the solar return chart involving planets in houses that you have determined are important to you in the coming year, you may wish to travel somewhere at the time of your solar return that will bring the horizon (Ascendant - Descendant axis) or meridian (Midheaven and I.C. axis) into a favorable aspect (sextile/trine) to the planet and/or house ruler you are concerned about.

It is also possible to more greatly empower positive aspects between planets in your solar return chart by simply traveling to a point in which these same angles make yet another positive aspect to them. For instance, if you have a trine between two planets that relate to an area of great personal interest this year, you might consider traveling somewhere for your birthday that will find the Midheaven or Ascendant forming a grand trine to these planets. That location would greatly enhance the expression and experience of the two trining planets during the course of the year.

If you are not an astrologer, and you are interested in designing a solar return chart that most positively highlights your solar return planets, you are advised to consult a well-trained, qualified and professional astrologer who can assist you in this matter. This would be greatly suggested in the event that you find certain parts in the "Planets In Aspect To Angles", or "Planets Conjunct The Solar Return House Cusps" sections particularly troubling. Those conditions can be altered simply by traveling for your solar return. In addition, planning a trip on your birthday is an excellent idea. It will cause you to put great conscious effort into that most sacred of all days of the year for you personally - your birthday, the day the Sun and Earth return to their exact position of your birth moment. It is a special day for you every year. Treat it with reverence. Make its unfoldment an annual pilgrimage, a mission, a challenge for you to have a super experience. The experiences of that day will be the foundation for the whole of your next year of life.