

The Technique Of



**SOLAR  
RETURNS**

Alexandre Volguine

# THE TECHNIQUE OF SOLAR RETURNS

BY THE SAME AUTHOR:

- L'utilisation du Tarot en Astrologie Judiciaire (The Use of the Tarot in Judiciary Astrology) 1933.  
Les Astres Parlent (The Stars Speak) 1933.  
La Symbolisme de la Vie Légendaire de Moïse (The Symbolism of the Legendary Life of Moses) 1933.  
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L'Interprétation Astrologique des Rêves (Astrological Interpretation of Dreams) 1953.  
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# THE TECHNIQUE OF SOLAR RETURNS

A. VOLGUINE

*Translated by John Broglio*

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## FOREWORD TO THE FIRST EDITION

This book presents the results of a decade and a half of constant work with Solar Returns. During that time I have endeavored to discover guidelines for their interpretation. This method, besides being the easiest to manipulate and the richest source of deductions, is also the one that conforms best to the demands of the scientific mind. It is based, not on an imaginary movement of the planets (as are all systems of directions, progressions, and profections), but on an astronomical fact: the return of the Sun to the position it occupied at the moment of birth. No one will deny that the astronomical year begins either at the winter solstice or at the vernal equinox; likewise no one can deny the soundness of the basis of the Solar Return. Although every system of directions has its partisans and opponents, on the subject of the Solar Return there are only two camps: astrologers who use this method, and those who have not yet "discovered" it.

With the publication of this work we hope to remedy the complete lack of books explaining the use of this method. There has been nothing meaningful or systematic written on the subject to date, except for an article by Janduz in "L'Astrosophie" (November, 1933, and February, 1934 issues), and my own articles in "L'Unité de la Vie" (March-April issue 1929), and "Le Grand Nostradamus" (#14, #16, #17, #18). In bookstores you will see over a dozen different astrology texts, all giving lengthy instructions for casting the natal chart, and all more or less repeating the same suggestions for interpreting it, but not one of these texts presents an adequate description of the Solar Return.

The opinions expressed by a number of authors on this subject only demonstrate to what extent this system is misunderstood. One example will prove my point.

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In the thirteenth issue of "Grand Nostradamus,"<sup>1</sup> Leon Lasson, a sincere and careful researcher, published an article on the "Real Directions" ("Les Véritables Directions"), in which he gave a summary of the statistics taken from 229 Solar Returns preceding death. But since he knew nothing about the subject other than what could be gleaned from a few—regrettably very superficial—sentences by P. Choissard, he came to the conclusion that Solar Returns were worthless.

In the next issue of the same periodical, I responded with a reprint of part of my article from "L'Unité de la Vie," which explained the principle features of the technique and demonstrated that the statistics had been incorrectly and improperly assembled.

The following month, Lasson himself admitted this. His new statistics, based on the superimposition of the Houses, produced results that exceeded an average of 40% and even of 60%. In the course of this book we will refer extensively to his article "L'Intérêt des Révolutions Solaires."

I must confess that Lasson's misadventure, which wasted many weeks of work pursuing a false lead, induced me to create this book in order to spare other investigators this painful groping in the dark and the blind alleys down which it inevitably leads.

Since no one is infallible, this book may contain some errors. But it will enable a beginner to familiarize himself with this strictly traditional system, which has been developed from the works of Antoine de Villon, Junctin de Florence, and many other classics of Astrology.

Spring 1937.

<sup>1</sup>"Le Grand Nostradamus," periodical published in 1934-1937, by Maurice Privat.

## PREFACE TO THE THIRD EDITION

There were eleven chapters in the first edition of this book, twelve in the second, and thirteen in this one, which demonstrates that each new edition is more complete than the last.

It is not that I have tried to "pad" the book with material published elsewhere, but rather, to present reliable new interpretations, discovered and verified during the twelve years that have elapsed since the first printing.

This book was conceived as a practical tool for the day-to-day work of the practicing astrologer. It has already been much plagiarized, which is, in its way, a not untainted praise of its usefulness. It is an explanation of the modern idea of the Solar Return. Although this idea is completely in line with tradition,<sup>1</sup> it differs greatly from the way this system was practised a few hundred years ago, when it was inextricably intertwined with profecion, among other things. (See, for example: *Traité des Révolutions Solaires* by Junctin de Florence,<sup>2</sup> which is an infinitely more voluminous work than this *Technique*.) This should in no way indicate that the Solar Return precludes the concomitant use of other methods—especially directions. Only the amateur astrologer would be content to make rash predictions on the basis of a single method chosen at random—even a proven one such as this. It is impossible to reduce all Astrology to transits, as certain superficial minds have unsuccessfully attempted to do, or even to Solar Returns, in spite of their merit and the wealth of their implications, without running a serious risk of errors in judgment. A "scientific" astrologer who was opposed on principle to directions and returns, and who had never even tried to use them without prejudice, lost his son in an accident which had not been indicated by transits. As a result, he

<sup>1</sup>See, for example, my article "De l'intérêt des Révolutions selon Bonatis" in "Les Cahiers Astrologiques," #60, January-February, 1956.

<sup>2</sup>Now available in an unabridged translation by Charles de Camiade in "Le Cahiers Astrologiques," beginning with #70.

gave up the practice of Astrology. Yet the child had had a characteristically fatal series of directions and a more or less catastrophic Solar Return.

There is an apparent hierarchy in these methods of prediction, in which each one is encased in the one before, from directions, the angles of the horoscope and progressions, to more rapid methods. Each of these methods has its own profound reason for existence, but a philosophical justification for each would take us outside of the framework of this book.<sup>3</sup>

The Solar Return occupies a central position in this hierarchy, which may explain why it furnishes the greatest number of predictions, but it cannot completely reverse anything indicated by the directions. It can soften or reinforce a direction, and in each individual case a harmonious synthesis must be worked out, for nothing else can insure accurate prediction.

It is precisely this synthesis which is the art of the practicing astrologer. Occasionally it is possible to make a detailed analysis of a year without using directions (this is by no means advisable, although in some years directional configurations are very scarce), but it is difficult to imagine being able to make a serious analysis without the Solar Return.

January 31, 1958

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<sup>3</sup>See, for example, E. Caslant's analysis in this article "Les Lacunes de l'Astrologie Contemporaine," in "Les Cahiers Astrologiques," #69, July-August, 1957.

## TO MY NEW READERS

Thirty-five years after the first appearance of this book, thirty-one years after its Dutch translation, which was followed by others, here is the Fourth Edition, carefully revised and augmented. The technical books on Astrology that reach this many editions are few and far between. But this success is not due to me, the author, but to the choice of subject. The Babylonians called their astrologers, "interpreters" (of the will of the planetary gods). A number of astrologers examining the same chart will frequently offer divergent points of view; my achievement consists only in clearly expressing my own. In my own way, I am merely an interpreter of that which I have found in tradition.

Astrology offers such a variety of systems and techniques—valid for the most part—that it is inevitable that at different stages in history some methods will be abandoned—or even forgotten—although they are of major importance, and at the same time easy to verify. My talent was perseverance. I embarked on the study of Solar Returns on the basis of some brief and rather incomplete indications, and I ended up working out a simple and clear technique.

I should state that I have never gone through any Astrology school. It is an easy route, but it frequently distorts the pupil's vision, making him accept without question all the teacher's opinions, thus impeding his own research. So I have studied Astrology with "both eyes open" and without preconceptions, trying to comprehend and, above all, to restore to their rightful place, the traditional approaches that nineteenth and twentieth century authors have rejected. At the beginning of my astrological career many years ago, I embarked resolutely on a program of patient and persevering research, accepting as a working principle the fact that our knowledge represents a very small part of what can still be discovered by observation and work.

In 1926, I participated in the organization of the Paris Astrological Center, which later became the Astrological Society of France. I was twenty-three years old, and by far the youngest member of the group. Also present were: Eudes Picard, Janduz (Jeanne Duzéa), Rigel (Paul Savoie), C. Moricand, et. al. — astrologers whose names are still heard today.

There, with a few charts to back me up, I attempted to demonstrate, with a beginner's enthusiasm, the validity of Solar Returns. I was listened to with icy politeness, as well-mannered grown-ups listen to a naughty child. I was informed that a certain Monsieur Stephane had published a statistic in H. Selva's periodical "Le Determinisme Astral," (1906) proving that Solar Returns were meaningless. I knew the article, and I complained that it had suppressed all interest in this technique.

I was aware of a general impatience as I attempted to demonstrate that M. Stephane's negative results were undoubtedly based on a misconception: the confusion between transits and the basic principle of the Return. In spite of the opposition I managed to sow a little doubt in the minds of some people, which induced Janduz to test and later to adopt this system.

Of all the occidental countries, the English-speaking ones have the greatest number of astrologers. But even they were unfamiliar with the Solar Return until last year. The few isolated articles on the subject that appeared in England and the United States before this book was translated were not taken seriously and remained unread.

English-speaking astrologers do not know how to cast and interpret a Solar Return, just as most French astrologers do not know how to cast and interpret a Progressed Horoscope. (*This was true when the first edition of this book appeared in 1936. ED.*) To establish valid predictions, I feel that the simultaneous use of both methods is necessary.

The neglect of the Solar Return, like the neglect of the Progressed Horoscope in France, is a striking example of the temporary loss of a traditional technique. Nostradamus mentioned

it in his letters,<sup>1</sup> as did all the great astrologers who have left us complete treatises. My only achievement has been to try to restore to its rightful place a system that had been mistakenly abandoned due to a lack of methodical training organized after the manner of the universities.

Why have I been attracted to this system since the first sign of my interest in astrology, when the number of problems left to test, rework, and reconstruct (navamsas, terms, all the other neglected divisions of the zodiac, dodecatemories, parts, cycles, etc.) is almost limitless?

Simply because the principle behind the Solar Return has been recognized throughout the world, undoubtedly since pre-historic times. It is clearly anterior to all written astrological documents. Thus it is established as one of the most reliable fundamental concepts in our branch of science. It is numbered among the oldest and most obvious ideas—in a class with the symbolism of day and night, of the East as the source of light, of the cardinal points, etc.

This historical element has not yet been given attention in the astrological literature, which is the reason for these few extra pages on the mythic basis of the Solar Return. (I am using "mythic" in the sense of "sacred history" as it is used by ethnologists today, as opposed to the pejorative sense of "fable" and "fiction.")

A preliminary explanation is needed. In all lands there are myths recounting the legendary era of the beginning, or the birth, or creation (of the world, a man, an animal, or an institution). The operation of the myths consists of the repetition of a certain ritual under specific conditions which bring the myths to life and renew their effect—as the Christian liturgy continually commemorates the sacred traditions familiar to all the faithful. But for archaic societies, it is not a simple commemoration, but a periodic magico-religious re-actualization of that which was

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<sup>1</sup>Lhéz, E.P.E.: "Aperçu d'un fragment de la correspondance de Nostradamus." *Provence Historique*, 1961.



done in that legendary era of the Beginning. Since birth is the outstanding example of a "time of power," this re-actualization is the re-integration of the man into that primordial moment, conferring new power on him.

I have not strayed from my subject: all the ceremonies of the New Year derive from that original world-wide conception, prevalent in the classic civilizations of the Orient—the Babylonians, the Hittites, the Egyptians, the Hebrews—as well as among the so-called "primitive" peoples of the Americas and Africa. If Astrology represents primarily a scientific interpretation of the calendar, then for each of us individually, the celebration of the New Year is translated by the Solar Return. Inasmuch as our birth is the "creation" of our unique personal world, our birthday should also be a unique "time of power" signifying a new beginning. What specific moment could be chosen for that purpose other than the return of the Sun to the exact position it held at birth?

It would be relatively easy to fill a book with the ethnographic and archeological data that emphasizes both the perfect analogy between the birth of the world and the birth of the individual, and the close relationship between the cosmogony and the religious meaning of the New Year. So many of the songs of archaic peoples begin with the creation of the world and end with the birth of the person to whom the song is directly addressed! For example, among the Santali in India, it is done only twice in a person's lifetime: 1) when a man is given his full social rights; 2) at his death, which is his "birth into the world beyond." On these occasions "the guru recites the history of humanity since the creation of the world, and finishes by recounting the birth of the person for whom the rite is being performed."<sup>2</sup>

Similar proofs of the "symmetry" between the creation of the world and the birth of an individual can be found on every continent—it is a belief too ancient and too widespread not to

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<sup>2</sup>Bodding, P.O.: "Les Santes," *Journal Asiatique*, 1932, pp. 58 sq., cited by Mircéa Eliade, *Aspects du Mythe*, French edition, Paris, 1963, p. 36.

find an equivalent expression in a form of wisdom like Astrology.

Myths of the New Year also have much to say about the cosmic renovation which institutes a new temporal cycle. "Each New Year begins the creation anew," as Mircéa Eliade said<sup>3</sup>, and this obviously applies to both the collective New Year, i.e., Mundane Astrology, and to the individual birthday—in other words, the Solar Return.

"This capacity of the cosmogonic myth, which enables it to be applied in different frames of reference, seems especially meaningful to me. Man in a traditional society is the fundamental unit of all types of creation or of all "forms," biological, psychological, or historical."<sup>4</sup> An astrologer would naturally include the horoscopic mode, which is the applied mathematical and astronomical expression of the cosmic order.

Astrologers have much to learn—even on a practical level—from beliefs and customs throughout the world, since these often embody many elements of astrology.<sup>5</sup> It is interesting that in the various languages of the Karok, Hupa, and Yurok tribes of California, the New Year is called "the restoration of the world"; it is their principal celebration (i.e., their most important), and its purpose (of the ceremony that takes place at that time) is to re-establish or restore the earth for the coming year.

"Among certain Yurok tribes, the restoration of the world is accomplished by the construction of the steam hut, a rite with a cosmogonic structure . . . The essential part of the ceremony consists of long pilgrimages that the priest makes to all the sacred places, that is to say, places where the immortals performed cer-

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<sup>3</sup>Idem, p. 57.

<sup>4</sup>Idem, p. 45. See also *Le Mythe de l'Eternel Retour*, by the same author. Obviously, at the time I began systematic study of the Solar Return, the works of Mircéa Eliade that I have quoted did not yet exist; but the works of Frazer and Muller had already brought the essential information to light, even excluding the allusions found in the classical literature.

<sup>5</sup>See my article "Notes sur la Tradition" in *Les Cahiers Astrologiques*, #133, March-April, 1968.

tain deeds. These ritual pilgrimages last ten to *twelve days*."—Mircéa Eliade<sup>6</sup>

The italics in the last two words are mine. In certain instances there are apparent relations between the configurations that form a few days after the day of the Solar Return and the events that occur in the corresponding months, as if there were a correlation between a day after the Solar Return and the corresponding month.

This connection need not be attributed to "coincidence" or "chance": like the temples of the great religions, whose astrological correspondences are generally overlooked,<sup>7</sup> the Yurok steam house represents the universe. Its roof symbolizes the canopy of the sky, the floor represents the earth, the four walls—the four directions of cosmic space. The Dakotas believe that "the year is a circle around the world"; in other words, around the initiatory hut. Note also that the interdependence between the Cosmos itself and cosmic time ("circular time") was so forcibly perceived that in many languages the word for "the world" is also used to signify "year." For example, some California tribes say: "The world has passed," or "the Earth has passed," to indicate that a year has gone by.<sup>8</sup>

These analogies between the birth (of the world or of the individual) and its annual renewal or re-activation, are what have inspired me, since the beginning of my interest in Astrology, to work carefully with this system and to consider the Solar Return a "central" method for prediction. Its importance should logically be at least equal (or even superior) to the "Biblical" system of a day for a year. Furthermore, insofar as in Mundane Astrology the importance of the vernal equinox is explained by the tradition that the Sun and all the planets started from 0° Aries at the creation of the world, in the individual horoscope, the return of the Sun to its natal place should offer the most significant indications.

<sup>6</sup>*Aspects du Mythe*, pp. 59-60.

<sup>7</sup>See my *Journal d'un Astrologue*, Paris, 1957, p. 87-89.

<sup>8</sup>Eliade, *idem*, p. 63.

The results I obtained quickly surpassed my expectations. The years of searching in the dark were rewarded generously by success, and even today I still come across new "finds."

But there are still a number of problems needing clarification, which this book does not even discuss: the use of the Solar Return for rectification of the birth chart, or the obviously important effect of the retrogradation of the more important planets in the annual chart. It is up to you, my new readers, to resolve them.

Thus in a certain way, progress is "tradition in motion."

A. VOLGUINE.  
January 1972.

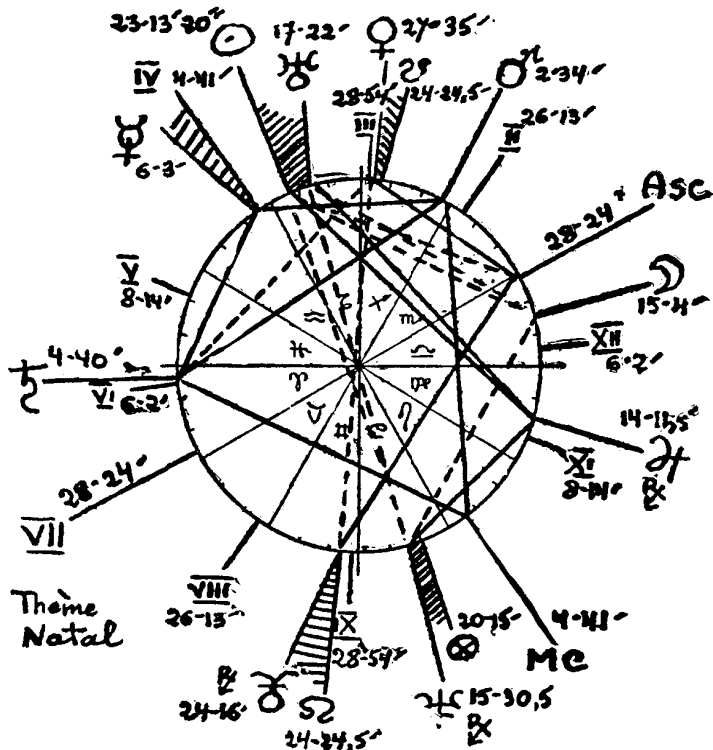
**THE TECHNIQUE  
OF SOLAR RETURNS**

## HOW TO CALCULATE THE SOLAR RETURN

Many astrologers use logarithms to calculate the Sun's position to the nearest minute of longitude. This approximation is insufficient to admit us to the mysterious domain of the Solar Return. In ten minutes the Sun travels an average of 25": if the Ascendant of the Solar Return falls in a sign of short ascension—especially Aquarius, Pisces, or Aries—an error of 25" may displace the Ascendant by 5° or more, which would render the whole interpretation false.

There are no grounds for the objection that since the moment of birth is known only approximately, it would be useless to determine the position of the Sun to the nearest second. The Solar Return is predicated above all on the relationships between the positions of the annual houses and the natal houses; an inexact birth time does not generally effect the interpretation of those relationships.

An example will clarify this. Assume that, once we establish the Ascendant of a birth chart at 25° 30' Virgo, we accept the possibility that the birth may have occurred 15 minutes earlier or later. Now, assume that in a given year the Ascendant of the Solar Return is 25° 30" Sagittarius, in other words, exactly squaring the natal Ascendant. If the birth occurred 15 minutes earlier, the Ascendant of the Solar Return will also be a few degrees earlier and, as a result, will be in approximately the same position relative to the natal Ascendant as in the chart we have cast.



Natal Chart of January 14, 1909, 0:37 am, Nice, from which we will calculate a Solar Return, which will be used as an example.

MC	4°41' Leo	ASC	28°24' Libra
XI	8°14' Virgo	II	26°13' Scorpio
XII	6°02' Libra	III	28°54' Sagittarius
Sun	23°13'20" Capricorn	Saturn	4°40' Aries
Moon	15°04' Libra	Uranus	17°22' Capricorn
Mercury	6°03' Aquarius	Neptune	15°30' Cancer
Venus	27°35' Sagittarius	Pluto	24°16' Gemini
Mars	2°34' Sagittarius	N. Node	24°24' Gemini
Jupiter	14°12' Virgo	Fortuna	20°15' Cancer

The tables of the Sun's motion that we have printed at the end of this book enables us to calculate the exact place of the Sun in a natal chart and to cast a Solar Return.

An example will familiarize us quickly with these calculations.

**JANUARY 1936.** <sup>0h</sup> (Midnight) Greenwich Mean Time, with the exception of ).

Day	Sidereal Time	LONGITUDES												Day		
		0	1h	2h	3h	4h	5h	6h	7h	8h	9h	10h	11h		12h	
1 W	6 37 55	9 15	24 34	1 17	2 2	4 17	35 9	8 17	8 3	11 17	40 40	21 17	51 21	26 17	58 29	1
2 Th	6 41 52	10	25 44	15	12 58	18	44 57	22	16 33	25	47 45	23	27 25	28	7 17	2
3 F	6 45 48	11	26 53	29	18 32	2 18	48 52	6 18	18 43	9 18	48 3	25	3 18	29	18 12	3
4 S	6 49 45	12	28 3	13 18	52 16	45	7 20	12 46	23	39 49	26	38 24	0 29	13	4	
5 Sa	6 53 41	13	29 12	27	6 14	0 11	39 0	3 11	57 4	7 11	21 25	28	13 3	1	40 20	5
6 M	6 57 38	14	30 21	10 45	3 14	7 55	17	30 1	20 51	19 29	46 54	2	61 33	6	8	
7 Tu	7 1 34	15	31 29	24	11 48	27	31 26	0 11	50 13	4 11	19 44	4	2 51	7	7	
8 We	7 5 31	16	32 37	7 25	10 10	11 18	13	56 32	17	10 51	2	51 19	5	14 15	8	
9 Th	7 9 28	17	33 45	20	24 15	23	38 44	26	48 18	29	58 56	4	21 19	6	25 44	9
10 F	7 13 24	18	34 53	3 18	8 41	6 17	32	9 18	25 29	12 18	32 34	6	49 25	7	37 19	10
11 S	7 17 21	19	36 1	15 38	49 18	44 14	21	48 51	21	52 42	7	15 13	8	48 59	11	
12 Sa	7 21 17	20	37 8	27 55	49 0 18	58 14	3 11	59 59	1 7	8	38 14	10	0 44	12	12	
13 M	7 25 14	21	38 16	10 11	42 13	1 44	16	1 19	10	0 29	9	57 57	11	12 34	13	
14 Tu	7 29 10	22	39 23	21 59	18 24	57 48	27	56 4	10	54 10	11	13 49	12	24 29	14	
15 We	7 33 7	23	40 30	3 52	10 6	50 7	9 48	6 12	46 11	12	25 7	13	36 28	15	15	
16 Th	7 37 3	24	41 36	15 44	27 18	42 57	21	11 46	24	41 0 13	31 10	14	48 32	16	16	
17 F	7 41 0	25	42 43	27 40	41 0 11	40 55	3 11	41 46	6 11	43 18	14	31 9	16	0 40	17	
18 S	7 44 57	26	43 49	9 45	37 12	48 46	15	52 49	18	57 51	15	24 15	17	12 52	18	
19 Sa	7 48 53	27	44 55	22 3 55	25 11	6 28	19 26	1 29	0 16	9 46	18	25 8	19	25 8	19	
20 M	7 52 50	28	46 1	4 39	51 7	52 11	11 5	5 33	14	20 29	16	46 17	19	37 28	20	
21 Tu	7 56 46	29	47 6	17 36	51 20	54 42	24	14 1 27	34 50	17	13 30	20	49 51	21	21	
22 We	8 0 43	30	48 11	0 57 8	4 11	20 57	7 11	46 14	11 11	12 59	17	30 28	22	2 18	22	
23 Th	8 4 39	1	49 15	14 41	9 18	10 43	21	41 38	25	13 50	17	36 32	23	14 48	23	
24 F	8 8 36	2	50 19	28 47	16 2	21 50	5	57 29	9	34 7	17	31 16	24	27 21	24	
25 S	8 12 33	3	51 22	13 11	39 16	49 57	20	28 57	24	8 32	17	14 28	25	39 57	25	
26 Sa	8 16 29	4	52 24	27 48	34 1 11	28 57	5 11	9 34	8 11	50 19	16	46 15	26	52 36	26	
27 M	8 20 26	5	53 25	12 31	4 16	11 43	19	52 10	23	32 17	16	7 5 28	27	5 19	27	
28 Tu	8 24 22	6	54 25	27 12	0 11	51 13	4 11	29 51	8 11	7 48	15	17 53	28	15 2	28	
29 We	8 28 19	7	55 23	11 45	1 15	21 26	18	57 0 22	31 39	14	19 53	0 11	30 49	29	29	
30 Th	8 32 15	8	56 21	26 5 21	29 38	4 3 11	9 46	6 11	40 27	13	14 48	1	43 38	30	30	
31 F	8 36 12	9	57 17	10 10 5	13 18	38 41	17	6 13	20	32 41	12	4 27	2	56 29	31	

Editor's note to the second printing

We are pleased with the favorable reception of *The Technique of Solar Returns*. One frequent request we received was to redo the charts from the French style notation used in this edition. To both satisfy the student, and to retain the original flavor of this early twentieth century classic, we have added a new appendix at the end of the book. Since the horoscopes in the appendix have been computer generated, they vary slightly from the French charts earlier in the book which were hand calculated from older and less accurate ephemerides than those available today.

Assume we want to erect the Solar Return for 1936 for the male native whose birth chart is shown here. The Sun in this chart is in  $23^{\circ}13'20''$  Capricorn.

Take the ephemeris for 1936. We have printed here a page of Dr. E. Williamson's *Astronomical Ephemeris*, which was undeniably the most complete (which makes its sudden disappearance after three years very disappointing). But any other available ephemeris can be used, as long as the Sun position is given accurately to the second needed for precise work.

In the column of the Sun's longitude, we find that the longitude nearest to  $23^{\circ}13'20''$  Capricorn (position of the natal Sun) is the one for midnight between January 14 and 15.

The difference between the two positions of the Sun is easily found:

Position in the Ephemeris	$23^{\circ}40'30''$
Position of the natal Sun	$- 23^{\circ}13'20''$
	$27'10''$
Position in the Ephemeris	$23^{\circ}40'30''$
Position of the natal Sun	$- 23^{\circ}13'20''$
	$27'10''$

Dr. E. Williamson's Ephemeris does not give the daily motion of the planets (as do Raphael's or P. Chacornac's) but it can be found by simple subtraction:

Position of the Sun, January 15, 1936	$23^{\circ}40'30''$
Position of the Sun, January 14, 1936	$- 22^{\circ}39'23''$
	$1^{\circ}1'7''$

This diurnal motion of the Sun enables us to determine easily and exactly the time it will take the Sun to travel the distance of  $27'10''$  which separates the longitude in the birth chart from that in the ephemeris. We could divide the daily motion (here  $1^{\circ}1'7''$ ) by the difference between the position of the Sun in the

ephemeris and that of the natal Sun, which would give us the *aliquot part*<sup>1</sup> of the day, but it is much simpler, more convenient, and faster to use the special tables.

In the "Tables of the Sun's Motion" which are at the end of the book, we find the solar progress of  $1^{\circ}0'12''$ . The latter is much closer to that of January 14, 1934, but I advise using the column of slower motion for greater convenience; otherwise a series of subtractions and additions must be performed which will confuse a beginner. So we will use the table for  $1^{\circ}0'48''$  and  $1^{\circ}1'12''$ .

Our difference in longitude is  $27'10''$ . Examining the column in this table we find the figure  $25'20''$ , which corresponds to ten minutes of time: the same figure in higher units, i.e., in ' and '' instead of '' and ''', corresponds to ten hours.

So we write:

Difference between the Sun in ephemeris and one in the birth chart	$27'10''$
Sun's progress in 10 hours in the column under $1^{\circ}48''$	$- 25'20''$
	$1'50''$

But since the sun's actual motion is  $1^{\circ}1'7''$  and not  $1^{\circ}0'48''$  we must return to the "table of interpolations" and find the figure that corresponds to a progress for ten hours for

	$1^{\circ}1'7''$
	$- 1^{\circ}0'48''$
	$19''$

The corresponding figure is 7.916'

Resuming our calculations:

	$1'50''$
	$- 7.916''$
	$1'42.084''$

<sup>1</sup>A mathematical term: the *aliquot part* of a number is simply a divisor of that number. In our case for a day of 24 hours: 2 would be an aliquot part, giving a result of 12; 2.1238, with a result of 11h 18m; 2.7533, with a result of 8h 43m; 3, with a result of 8h; etc.

Returning to the Table for the Sun's Motion, in the same column (under  $1^{\circ}0'48''$ ) we look for the number closest to  $1'42.084''$ . That number is  $1'41''20'''$ , which corresponds to 40 minutes of time which we must deduct from the result of our previous operation:

	$1'42.084''$ or $1'42''05'''$
Minus the Sun's progress during 40 minutes in the table for $1^{\circ}0'48''$	<u><math>-1'41''20'''</math></u>
minus the interpolation for $19''$ for these 40 minutes, which would be 0.5278 or	$0'45'''$
	<u><math>-32''^{12}</math></u>
	$13'''$

which will approximately equal the Sun's movement during five seconds.

Remember that the longitude of the natal Sun was less than that for midnight on January 15, 1936; so the Sun reached its natal position 10 hours 40 minutes 5 seconds before midnight, or at 1hr. 19m. 55s. p.m. on January 14—the exact moment of the Solar Return. Since all the remaining calculations are identical to those for the natal chart, it will be easy to cast a chart of the heavens for this moment. One thing must be remembered: since the ephemeris always gives the planetary positions for Greenwich, the moment for the Sun's return to its natal position will always be shown in Greenwich time, and not in the local time of the place where the native is (Nice, in our example). I want to make a special point of this, because I have noticed that beginners tend to forget the difference in longitude between Greenwich and the place of the birth, and they cast the Solar Return without adding (or subtracting for West longitude) this difference.

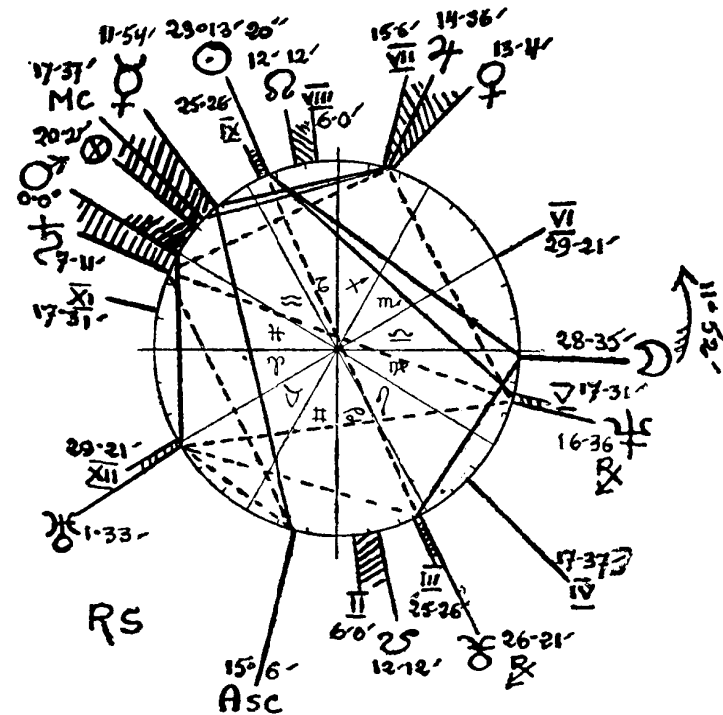
In our example, the calculation for sidereal time is done as follows:

<sup>12</sup>The number 0.5278 is not in the Table of Interpolation, because the table has only nine columns. Forty minutes are  $\frac{2}{3}$  of an hour, and therefore  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the correction of 0.7916. Since  $\frac{2}{3}$  of 0.7916 is 0.5278, multiplying this number by  $60''$ , we get  $32''$ .

S.T. for January 14 (taken from ephemeris)	7h 29m 10s
+ Difference in time	13h 19 m55s
+ Correction	2m 11s
+ Longitude of Nice	<u>29m 7s</u>
	21h 20m 23s

On the page opposite is the chart for which we have calculated the moment and the sidereal time. We will use it as an example for interpretation.

Because of the discrepancy between our civil year of 365 days (366 in leap year) and the astronomical year, a Solar Return may fall on the day before or the day after the birthday, which often confuses beginners. It is not necessary to pay any attention to the date of the birthday; the real birthday is indicated by the return of the Sun to its natal position.



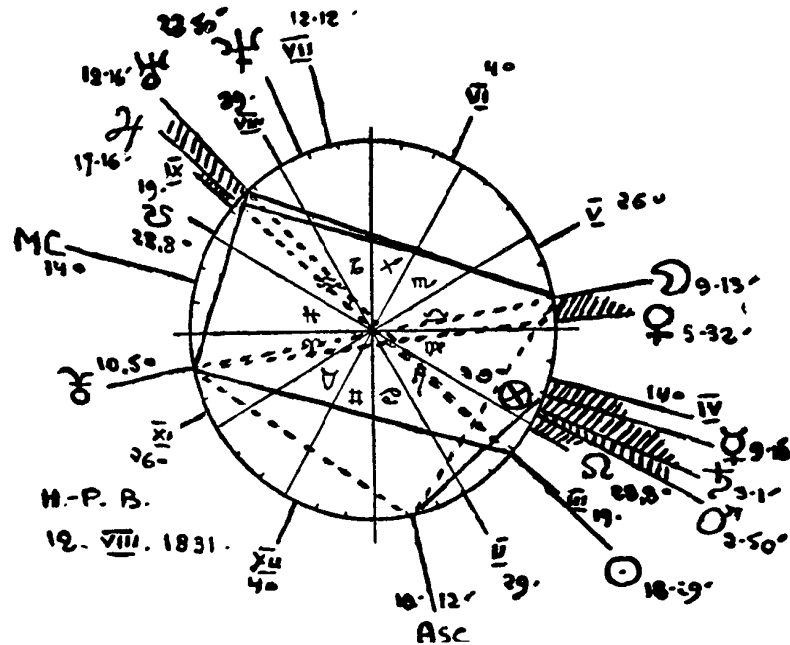
## AN OFTEN NEGLECTED RULE

Before discussing the interpretation of the Solar Return, which is the subject of the following chapters, I want to remind astrologers that the annual chart must be erected **not for the place of birth, but for the place where the native is at the time of his birthday**. Medieval writers do not mention this simply because long journeys were less common then than now, so this rule was less important than it is for us. If a man leaves Paris to live in Poitiers, this does not affect his Solar Return cast for Paris enough to distort all the deductions; whereas if a person leaves France for Madagascar or Syria, this completely changes the orientation of his horoscope. And lastly, the Ancients undeniably followed a number of rules which they did not consider necessary to commit to writing—a factor which has no doubt deprived us of a lot of information due to the lack of an oral tradition.

Whatever may be the cause of these writers' silence, the importance of this rule is so clear that about twelve years ago an American astrologer, taking the credit for this discovery, published a typewritten pamphlet about it, which he sold for twelve dollars! It is true that he advised not only casting the Solar Return for the place where the native was at the moment of his birthday, but even re-adjusting the houses each time the native moves during the year. But this last idea contradicts the basic principle of the Solar Return, which localizes the coming year within the space of twenty-four hours, as we shall see in the following chapters. Just as the secondary directions use the configurations of a day for the image of the future events of a year,



so the first day of a Return is the most important of all, and conditions the whole year.

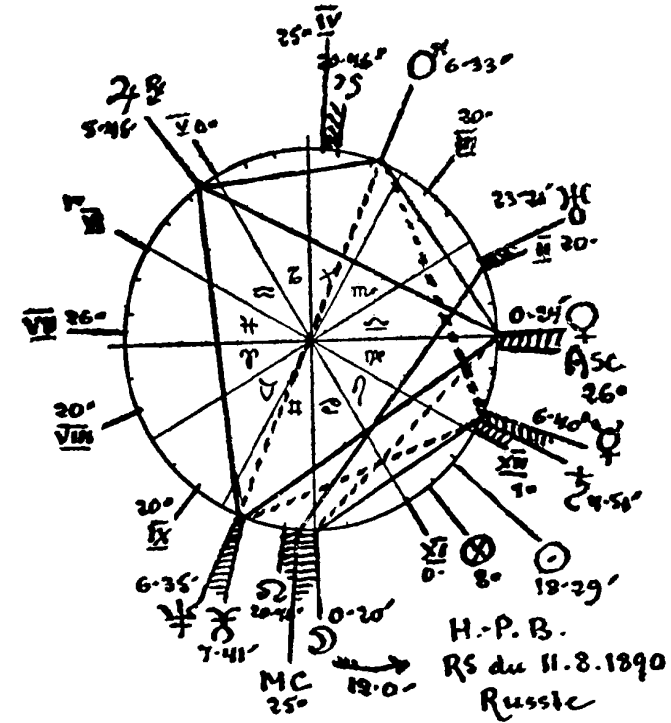


NATAL CHART OF H. P. BLAVATSKY

Natal chart for H.P.B. which we have chosen because of the agitated life of the native, which moved the Solar Returns from one continent to the other.

H.P.B. Aug 12, 1831 Ekaterinoslav

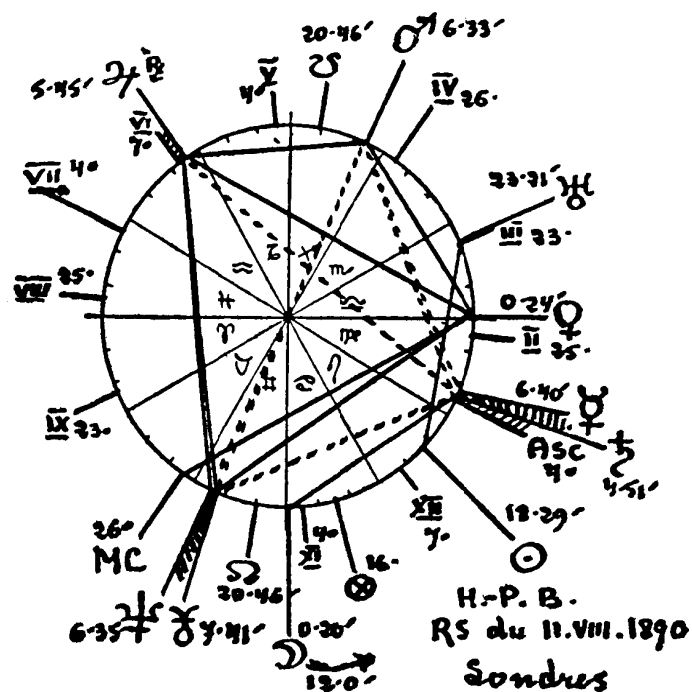
MC	14° Pisces	ASC	12°12' Cancer
XI	26° Aries	II	29° Cancer
XII	4° Gemini	III	19° Leo
Sun	18°29' Leo	Saturn	3°01' Virgo
Moon	9°13' Libra	Uranus	12°16' Aquarius R
Mercury	9°15' Virgo	Neptune	22°50' Capricorn R
Venus	5°32' Libra	Pluto	10°50' Aries
Mars	2°50' Virgo	N. Node	28°08' Leo
Jupiter	17°16' Aquarius R	Fortuna	2°56' Virgo



SOLAR RETURN for the year of the death of H. P. Blavatsky cast for her place of birth.

H. P. B. S. R. for Aug 11, 1890 Russia

MC	25° Gemini	ASC	26° Virgo
XI	0° Leo	II	20° Libra
XIII	1° Virgo	III	20° Scorpio
Sun	18°29' Leo	Saturn	4°51' Virgo
Moon	0°20' Cancer	Uranus	23°21' Libra
Mercury	6°40' Virgo	Neptune	6°35' Gemini
Venus	0°24' Libra	Pluto	7°41' Gemini
Mars	6°33' Sagittarius	N. Node	20°46' Gemini
Jupiter	5°45' Aquarius R	Fortuna	8°00' Leo



### SOLAR RETURN

for the year of the death of H. P. Blavatsky  
cast for her place of residence (London).

[Planetary positions the same as preceding chart]

MC	26° Taurus	ASC	4° Virgo
XI	4° Cancer	II	25° Virgo
XII	7° Leo	III	23° Libra

So before casting a Solar Return, we must always ascertain the location of the native at the moment of his birthday. I have frequently had to cast charts for the Atlantic Ocean, the Indian Ocean, or the Red Sea, when a birthday overtook the native in the middle of a crossing, and my deductions have later proven true. This refutes Janduz's claim that the Solar Return should be

cast for the place of one's home or for the home port of sailors. I cannot see what importance in the cosmic order a boat's home port of Marseille can have, if on the day of his birthday the native was at Dakar or Buenos-Aires; this is an indisputable astrological fact.

No, These charts must invariably be calculated for the place where the native is surprised by the moment of the Sun's return to its natal place.<sup>1</sup> This fact must be well known to some English astrologers, since I have been told by a well informed and trustworthy source that several long trips taken by Edward VIII while he was still Prince of Wales were prescribed for astrological reasons, in order to shift the malefic annual configurations into houses of the horoscope where they would not indicate an accident endangering his life.

It is very simple to test the rule we set down here. You need only cast two different Solar Returns, one for the place where the native was at the time, and the other for the place of birth—and then compare them with the events of the year.

Let us use H. P. Blavatsky's chart, which we will refer to often in the course of this book. We have selected her agitated, eventful and wandering life as an especially fruitful one for the demonstration of our thesis. Here are two versions of the Solar Return for August 11, 1890, 6:15 a.m. (GMT), which preceded her death in London on May 8, 1891. The chart for the place of birth is totally void of indications, whereas the one for London has its Ascendant and its ruler Mercury in conjunction with Saturn—ruler of the Eighth House in the natal chart—in quincunx with Jupiter and squaring Neptune—the two rulers of the house of death in this annual chart. Saturn further indicates the languishing quality of the death, while the square of Mars to the Ascendant, Mercury, and Saturn gives a new confirmation, since

<sup>1</sup>G. Muchery in his *Traité Pratique des Directions*, Vol. 1, p. 76, also professes this opinion, which has won the approval of nearly all astrologers since the first edition of this book. Only M. André Costesèque, in his *Correspondances Symboliques des degrés du Zodiaque*, p. 7, favors casting the Solar Return for the place of birth, but I am convinced that he would have changed his opinion were it not for his premature death in 1946.

Mars is the second ruler of the Eighth House, which extends from 25° Pisces to 23° Aries.

In the chart cast for Russia, there is only a weak reflection of these truly fatal configurations: the Ascendant is out of the range of the malefic aspects and Jupiter and Neptune are not the rulers of the Eighth House here. I cannot imagine a prediction of death from this chart, especially since the Ascendant is in conjunction with Venus which is sustained by the benefic aspects from Mars, Jupiter and Neptune.

I need not insist further on the necessity of casting the Solar Return for the place where the native is, rather than for the place of birth, but I felt I must emphasize this basic rule before discussing the question of interpretation.

## CHAPTER 3

### THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE ORIENTATION OF THE ANNUAL CHART IN RELATION TO THE NATAL CHART

The interpretation of a Solar Return must always begin with an analysis of the relations between the annual and natal houses, since experience shows that the superimposition of the houses is an important part of this system. A. de Thyane showed a clear grasp of this rule when he said:

“If the Ascendant of the Return chart is in square or opposition to the natal Ascendant, the year will be more or less unfavorable. If these two Ascendants are in favorable aspect to each other, it may promise a happy year.

“If the Sixth, Seventh, or Twelfth House of the natal chart is on the Ascendant of the Return chart, unhappiness is in the offing, and even a great deal of misfortune, if the lord of that house is afflicted at birth. . . .”<sup>1</sup>

A. de Thyane's remark is rather vague, and there is still much to be said about aspects between the angles. For example: an unfavorable aspect from the annual Ascendant to the Midheaven of the birth chart indicates a danger of the native himself damaging his career. If the Ascendant is in Fire or Air, this danger will be a result of his taking matters into his own hand, or of starting new projects; in Earth or Water, it will be

<sup>1</sup>*Astrologie Elémentaire, Paris, 1935, p. 101.*

the result of stubbornness, or negligence, and so forth. When this configuration (or annual Midheaven in opposition to natal Ascendant) occurs at an advanced age, it often indicates a decrease in earning power due to decline in energy, or a project beyond the native's strength, or activity slowed down or interrupted by health problems.

But the aspects between natal and annual positions recommended by A. de Thyane are less important than the superimposition of annual and natal houses. It is reasonable that in a chart of the heavens cast for a moment directly determined by the Sun, the comparison between the natal and annual houses should receive primary attention, since the difference between them is the first consequence of the Sun's return to its natal position.

Since the angles (i.e., Ascendant, Midheaven, IV and VII Houses) are more important than the other houses, I would advise beginners to note down next to the annual chart the relationships caused by the orientation of the angles. In Blavatsky's Solar Return for the year of her death (given in the preceding chapter), we note:

Annual Ascendant in natal Third House  
 Annual Midheaven in natal Eleventh House  
 Natal Ascendant in the annual Eleventh House  
 Natal Midheaven in the annual Seventh House

As we proceed, we will indicate the kind of judgments that can be made from these superimpositions. The orientation of the annual Ascendant is obviously the principal factor—as is the Ascendant in the natal chart. But unlike the natal Ascendant, which must above all be interpreted psychologically, the Ascendant in the Solar Return operates according to the nature of the natal house it occupies. It could be stated, as a principle for interpretation of annual charts, that the natal house in which the Ascendant of the Solar Return falls is always connected with the most important event of the year, or with the characteristic conditions of the life during the year. The nature of the natal house “puts its stamp” on the year and indicates the central in-

terest that will dominate all the other interests of the native. If the Ascendant of the Solar Return represents the native, the natal house in which it is located usually represents the atmosphere in which he lives.

When the natal and annual angles coincide, it is invariably a significant year, although the juxtaposition of the two Ascendants must be interpreted differently from the superimposition of the annual Ascendant on the natal Midheaven.

The significations for the positions of the annual Ascendant in the natal houses may be summarized as follows:

**Ascendant in the first natal house** always indicates a very great freedom of choice during the coming year, which enables the native to fulfill many of the potentials indicated in the natal chart. Obviously, this fulfillment is completely dependant on the will of the native. The Solar Return in its entirety, the house that the ruler of the Ascendant occupies, its aspects and other configurations show in what area the native's activities will be focussed.

Planets in the First House seem to decrease freedom of action; consequently they must be carefully examined. They also indicate the nature of the individual's activity, its modalities, and import, as well as the qualities and the defects in that activity. A planet in the First House, not in conjunction with the Ascendant, indicates that the native will subject to its effects without causing them; if it is in conjunction with the Ascendant it indicates that the effects indicated by the planet will be released by the native's action. The Ascendant is often seen in conjunction with the ruler of the Seventh House in years when the native marries.

Presumably this rule is always valid, and not just when the annual Ascendant is in the natal First House. For example, Uranus in conjunction with the Ascendant of the Solar Return often indicates an accident or some sudden event for which the native is the cause; but if it is in the First House, and not in conjunction with the Ascendant, the planet will indicate the same kind of event, but without the native being the cause. The rules

for the interpretation of planets in the annual houses, and of their relationships with natal planets will be given later in this book. As an example: the annual Ascendant was in the natal First House in the H. P. Blavatsky Solar Return on August 11, 1878, the year she left America for India (November 18). Since the ruler of the Ascendant is conjunct Jupiter, one of the two rulers of the Ninth House, and since Neptune, the second ruler of the Ninth, is in the Tenth, this chart is characteristic of a change in the native's life through a long journey.

**Annual Ascendant in the second natal house** indicates that the central focus of the year will be on income and finances, and that this matter must be examined before any other. If elements of the horoscope are generally benefic, it could indicate an important business accomplishment; but if the Second House is occupied by malefics — financial worries, problems with money and even financial losses are inevitable. Everything will depend on the degree of affliction.

**Annual Ascendant in the third natal house** emphasizes the importance of the native's associations, and indicates that the major event of the year will involve the native's brother or sister, or that travel, mental work or writings will determine the year's atmosphere and demand the most attention. This is the orientation of H. P. Blavatsky's Solar Return preceding her death. (The chart used to illustrate the rule stated in the previous chapter.) At first glance this orientation may be surprising, but the nine months that separated the birthday from the moment of death were completely devoted to literary work, not only on *The Secret Doctrine* (which was left unfinished), but also on many articles, and on editing. This work absorbed all her attention, and formed the "climate" — if I may so express it — in which H. P. Blavatsky lived during the last years of her life.

Briefly, it is a superimposition that concerns relatives or writing, visits, short trips, and things or people close at hand. If the Fifth House in the Solar Return is important and matters of the heart are greatly indicated, this superimposition refers to matters involving the opposite sex, since the Third House is that

of the mistress in a masculine horoscope, and of the lover in a feminine one.

**Annual Ascendant in the fourth house** frequently coincides with change of residence, completion of a project, or the end of an enterprise — often an occurrence involving the parents, associates or the home of the native. Psychologically it indicates a desire for stabilization, for material and moral security, the reestablishment of a home (if the native does not have one), and guarantees for the future. In an afflicted chart this is a dangerous orientation: under this configuration, during the terrible years from 1939 to 1944, a number of people were deported into concentration camps or guarded living quarters. Extensive study of the Solar Return in each case will reveal on which meaning of the Fourth House the interpretation should focus. On the following page we have printed H. P. Blavatsky's Solar Return preceding the foundation of the Theosophical Society, which took place in New York on September 7, 1875. Here the presence of the Ascendant in the Fourth House can only mean the *conclusion of a personal accomplishment* involving her social position (four planets in the Tenth House), and literature of a religious and reformatory character (Moon, ruler of the Midheaven; Mars and the Third House, in Sagittarius). The Libra Ascendant — symbol of union — defines the collective nature of the achievement. The chart as a whole is exceptionally brilliant (there is a long list of very strong harmonious aspects, and only three disharmonious aspects), and confers major importance on this achievement. Of all H. P. Blavatsky's Solar Returns, no other one has similar benefic configurations — which is in complete accord with the fact that the year in which the Theosophical Society was created was the most outstanding year of her life.

We should mention that very frequently we find the Ascendant in the natal Fourth House in Solar Returns for the year of death. This is the orientation of Balzac's Solar Return on May 20, 1850.<sup>2</sup> Obviously, "the end," one of the principal significations of the Fourth House, here indicates the end of life.

<sup>2</sup>P. Choissard, *Language Astral*, p. 234 of the Fourth edition, 1930.

**Annual Ascendant in the natal fifth house** indicates that the major event of the year will involve love or children, or sometimes technical instruction. It always corresponds to an important development in relations with the native's intimate associates, or to changes there. It is generally a benefic superimposition (unless there are major afflictions) and it is often seen in a year of engagement, or of birth of children (especially in a feminine chart). Occasionally this position excites the speculative side of this house. In an unfavorable Solar Return, this could mean gambling or stock market losses; but this meaning of the Fifth House should only be assumed if the chart shows a link between the Fifth and the Second or Eighth House (for example, ruler of the Fifth in the Second, or vice-versa) and if the planets accentuate finances. Otherwise, this superimposition involves love relationships or children, another person's influence, friendly relationships, and things which are lovable, pleasures, invitations and celebrations. For an artist, it is generally the indication of a year of success or advancement, because the Fifth House governs the arts in general, and the theatre in particular.

Obviously in each individual instance the planets will indicate which aspect of the natal house will be excited by the presence of the annual Ascendant. For example, the Ascendant of the Solar Return and Uranus in the natal Fifth House of a feminine chart almost always brings a miscarriage: the destructive nature of Uranus acting in the Fifth House brings the destruction (surgically or otherwise, intentionally or accidentally) of the future infant. The chart in its entirety, and especially the relationships between the Fifth House on the one hand and the Sixth, Eighth and Twelfth House on the other, as well as the afflictions to the luminaries and to the ruler of the Ascendant, will indicate in each individual case the extent of the danger to the native and the repercussions on the native's health.

**Annual Ascendant in the sixth natal house** is generally a bad omen for health, and an indication of domestic troubles. But if the Solar Return is good, it is possible that no illness will occur, but there will be a tendency to a weakening of the organism, lack of energy, and frequent exhaustion. The Sixth

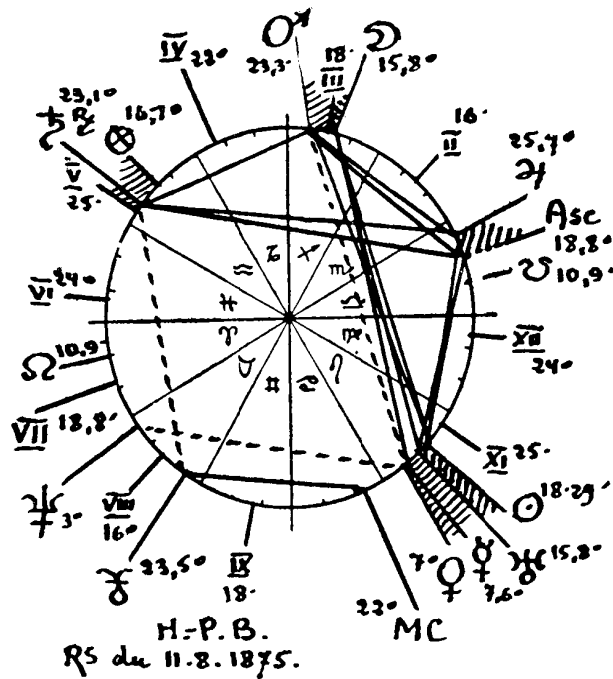
House of the Solar Return unfavorably linked with the Tenth, indicates professional problems and difficulties, because it usually involves duties and obligations or even servitude, and frequently evokes joyless and unexciting, somewhat tedious and wearisome activity.

**Annual Ascendant in the seventh natal house** will always bring out the nature of this house. If indications are favorable, this position of the Ascendant will bring marriage or partnership; if afflicted, this configuration corresponds to a trial or to problems caused by the partner or spouse or to a lack of success in social life. If the Ascendant of the Solar Return opposes the natal Ascendant—problems with health, accidents, operations, etc. This superimposition is often seen in Returns which mark the year of a divorce or separation. In most instance, we could say that the arc from the cusp of the Sixth House to the end of the Eighth House has a rather unfavorable influence.

For politicians this chart orientation emphasizes public activity (as in the case of Mussolini's Solar Return before the march on Rome).

**Annual Ascendant in the natal eighth house** is frequently seen in years that bring a death, either in the family or in the native's circle of friends and associates. If the Solar Return is afflicted, and the symbolic directions and the progressed horoscope indicate danger of death, this danger threatens the native directly. This was the Ascendant position in the Solar Return preceding Robespierre's execution.<sup>3</sup> But even if the direct threat is absent, it is not a good indication for health, because this position of the Solar Return Ascendant will bring, throughout the whole year, a state of general weakness, apathy, and uncharacteristic weariness, a decrease in or absence of will power, indifferent compliance in work and duties, worries about health or about death during—or as a result of—illness or accident. It is the surest indication of fatigues and temporary depressions, which could lead even to syncope. Aging, and the

<sup>3</sup>Choisnard, p. 206.



H. P. Blavatsky's Solar Return for the year of the foundation of the Theosophical Society.

HPB SR for Aug. 11, 1875

MC	22° Cancer	ASC	18°08' Libra
XI	25° Leo	II	16° Scorpio
XII	24° Virgo	III	18° Sagittarius
Sun	18° 29' Leo	Saturn	23°10' Aquarius R
Moon	15°08' Sagittarius	Uranus	15°08' Leo
Mercury	7°06' Leo	Neptune	3°00' Taurus
Venus	7°00' Leo	Pluto	23°50' Taurus
Mars	23°03' Sagittarius	N. Node	10°09' Aries
Jupiter	25°07' Libra	Fortuna	16°10' Aquarius

erosion of the organism's strength, are particularly noticeable during years marked by this orientation of the Ascendant. If the native is ill, this superimposition indicates risk from medical care, treatments, or wrongly prescribed medicines which are dangerous for him. Lastly, if the ruler of the Eighth or of the Ascendant is in the Sixth, or if there are disharmonious relationships between the rulers of these houses in the Solar Return, the native would be advised to change doctors (represented by the Eleventh House in the charts of the sick, since it is the house of protectors).

But if the Eighth House is well situated in the natal chart and in the Solar Return, it indicates financial returns, such as wills, stock or estate revenue, annuities, dividends, spouse's dowry, inheritances, unexpected wealth, etc. . . . in such a case, the Solar Return may well indicate good fortune of that sort during the year. From the spiritual point of view, the annual Ascendant in the Eighth House seems to push the native toward spiritualism and matters concerning the afterlife. With afflictions, this kind of experience should be avoided, since it will be dangerous.

Take, for example, the Solar Return cast in Chapter One. Its Ascendant, 15°54' Gemini, is in the middle of the natal Eighth House, which extends from 26°13' Taurus to 28°54' Gemini. How should this orientation of the annual Ascendant be interpreted?

Examine immediately the annual Eighth House. There we find the Sun, ruler of the Fourth House of parents. The Eighth is ruled by Saturn in the Tenth House, that of the mother. These two planets are peregrine (no dignities) and heavily afflicted: therefore, the annual Ascendant in the natal Eighth House can only be interpreted unfavorably, i.e., as a sign of the mother's death.

Several other configurations confirm this interpretation. The natal Eighth House contains only one planet: Pluto. In the Return, Pluto opposes the Sun. The natal Eighth House begins in Taurus, and thus is ruled by Venus; in the Solar Return,

Venus opposes the Ascendant. The Tenth, that of the mother, is occupied by two malefics: Mars and Saturn. Saturn is afflicted by unfavorable aspects from Venus, Jupiter and Neptune. Lastly, the North Node, which was in the natal Eighth House, occupies the same house in the Return.

Later in the book we will continue with the interpretations of this Solar Return, since it will be useful for illustrating other rules. We should mention here that the native's Solar Return for January 14, 1940 also has its Ascendant in the natal Eighth House — and that his father died July 26, 1940.

**Annual Ascendant in the natal ninth house** indicates that the coming year revolves around an important journey. The planets determine whether it will take place or not. Since this house is highly philosophic, it is very favorable for advanced studies and generally indicates development in the ideas of the native, or an accelerated intellectual development. If afflicted, it could indicate philosophic or religious misconceptions, or fanaticism. Generally this position of the Ascendant should be judged favorable for judges, lawyers, and anyone else whose profession is associated with the Ninth House. In any case, the importance of one of these significations will stand out during the year to come. As an example of this orientation, we have Stalin's Solar Return for January 2, 1941, the year of the beginning of the war between Russia and Germany, in other words — attack by a foreign country. Terribly afflicted, with Mars — planet of war — in the First House, this annual chart has its Ascendant in the natal Ninth House, in the Mars-ruled sign Scorpio, in exact opposition to natal Neptune.

**Annual Ascendant in the natal Midheaven** indicates changes in the career, new possibilities and opportunities, or long-awaited successes, etc. But since the annual Ascendant symbolizes personal action, this advancement, opportunity or success depends primarily on the native's activity and his energy, which will be the basis of his good — or bad — luck, depending on the general indications of the Solar Return. Gambetta's Return

for April 2, 1870<sup>4</sup> had this orientation of the Ascendant, as did H. P. Blavatsky's for 1877, which brought her naturalization as an American citizen in the beginning of 1878.

If at the time the annual Midheaven falls on the cusp of the natal Seventh House (which very often happens, except in charts of people born north of the fifty-second parallel), this change in social position will be accompanied by a change in associates. It is a configuration very frequently seen in Solar Returns for marriage, divorce, and partnership.

**Annual Ascendant in the natal eleventh house** always brings friendship to the fore. If the horoscopic factors are favorable, it will be a year of new friendships, help from friends, new plans which can only be realized with the help of friends or acquaintances, or achievement of desires or hopes which are completely independent of the native's control. If afflicted, this position indicates complications, problems, difficulties and foul play caused by friends — sometimes even severing of friendships.

**Annual Ascendant in the natal twelfth house** is a dangerous position indicating a year of ordeal, and the manifestation or aggravation of chronic illnesses. In the chart of an occultist, this position could promote occult studies and experiments.

Since the Twelfth is the house of secret enemies, this superimposition could bring calumnies and snares of all kinds, gossip, etc. If the annual Ascendant is in the natal Eleventh House, but in conjunction with the cusp of the Twelfth, there is a threat of disloyal actions by a friend, who is really a hypocritical secret enemy. Lawsuits are common under this configuration.

Although the annual Ascendant in the natal Twelfth House indicates a year of ordeal, it would be impossible to list in advance all the events that such a superimposition might bring. My own experience indicates only that the health always suffers, even if the major event is a false accusation, arrest, or psycho-

<sup>4</sup>Choisnard, p. 181.



logical collapse. Lastly, this Ascendant position always brings a great deal of worry and severe anxiety during the year.

Those are general indications furnished by the orientation of the annual chart. In each individual instance, it is easy to perceive the nature of the natal house where the Solar Return Ascendant falls, but only a careful examination of all the elements of the horoscope will enable us to determine how to interpret the ascending house.

## CHAPTER 4

### THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE ORIENTATION OF THE ANNUAL MIDHEAVEN

The inequality of the horoscopic houses is one of the principal factors that gives an astrological chart all of its individuality. Unfortunately most astrologers are content to indicate house positions approximately—to the nearest few degrees. Inequality of the houses is the cornerstone of Solar Return interpretation, since an annual house may embrace two, or in certain latitudes even three, natal houses, and vice-versa. Each of these superimpositions has a specific meaning.

In the preceding chapter we examined the indications furnished by the orientation of the annual Ascendant in relation to the natal chart. But an annual Ascendant in the natal Tenth House does not necessarily mean that the annual Second House will be in the natal Eleventh: it could be in the Tenth, or in the Twelfth. In each case the interpretation would be different.

This is an appropriate place to refute the claim made by certain astrological textbooks that each year the Midheaven advances  $90^\circ$ , give or take  $5-6^\circ$ . The difference between the Midheavens in two successive Solar Returns for a person remaining in the same place may in some cases be  $72^\circ$ —which disproves this claim. And if the native moves a great distance (e.g., from Europe to America—which is quite common now), the Midheaven may move backwards, instead of advancing, in relation to the previous year's Solar Return.

The Midheaven is very nearly as important as the Ascendant (so much so that the history of astrology shows that many astrologers of antiquity were in a quandary as to which angle deserved preference). Therefore the Midheaven's superimposition should be examined immediately after that of the Ascendant. These two angles, as it were, sound the "keynote" for the year. Their orientation may be compared to the big bass drum of the orchestra, covering the sounds of all the other instruments with its roar.

The indications furnished by the Midheaven in the twelve natal houses may be summarized as follows:

**Annual Midheaven in the natal first house** is generally a good indication, enabling the native to influence his destiny and to orient it in the direction he prefers. This superimposition always promises individual action that somehow or other helps his future. It is frequently seen in years when the native chooses his vocation, or begins a project that turns his life in a new direction. This position gives a great deal of opportunity. The difference between this superimposition and that of the annual Ascendant on the natal Tenth House is this: in the latter instance, the native must act on his own, discover the means and the opportunities, and bring about the proper conditions; whereas if the Midheaven is in the natal First House, fortune plays a larger part; he will find help, money, patronage, etc.; in a word, one way or another, things will come to him. It is generally a very good sign, and better than that of the annual Ascendant in the natal Tenth House.

H. P. Blavatsky's Solar Return for the year of the founding of the Theosophical Society has this Midheaven orientation.

**Annual Midheaven in the natal second house** indicates a year in which the native will be well or badly paid, depending on the favorable or unfavorable disposition of these two houses. It is a sign that finances are very important and should be carefully examined, even if the Second House is unoccupied.

**Annual Midheaven in the natal third house** indicates a social position that requires much travel, or which is connected

with writing. If the Solar Return is benefic, this superimposition may bring an improvement in the social position as a result of a short business trip, or the receipt of an important proposal by letter. In feminine charts, and in the charts of persons with no profession, this orientation generally indicates that their situation depends on their associates.

**Annual Midheaven in the natal fourth house** always raises questions about land, parents or the home. Very often it indicates achievement of a project of long standing. Since the Fourth House governs the end of things, this orientation often marks the year of retirement. If afflicted, this orientation threatens a loss of position, especially if the natal and annual Midheavens are in opposition (within 8-9°).

**Annual Midheaven in the natal fifth house** is generally a good sign and may indicate a position connected with the arts, or sports, a success through, or for, children, or an engagement advantageous for improving the native's standing (especially in a feminine chart). For a woman this position often indicates a year where her principal continuous activity is devoted to her child. Sometimes it is a sign of a life caught up in worldly pleasure. In a student's chart, this orientation refers to examinations. But if the Solar Return is afflicted there is a danger of the disintegration of all the native's hopes (because of the Midheaven's opposition to the natal Eleventh House here.).

**Annual Midheaven in the natal sixth house** is a sign of a subordinate or dependent position. If the Solar Return promises illness, this position is an indication of the repercussions bad health will have on the native's career. If this orientation is reinforced by Saturn's presence in the Midheaven, it indicates that the native is more or less a slave in his work, because it reduces his freedom of choice and freedom of action, and opposes the achievement of most of his desires.

**Annual Midheaven in the natal seventh house**—well disposed, could signify promotion through marriage, partnership, or a business contract. Unfavorably disposed, this superimposition could cause changes through divorce, a dissolu-

tion of a partnership or even by trial. In feminine charts it frequently indicates the wife's dependence on the changes that occur in the husband's business.

**Annual Midheaven in the natal eighth house** favorably disposed, may indicate financial returns, occasionally an inheritance, or a favorable settling of accounts. Unfavorably disposed, this superimposition indicates a death with repercussions on business, or problems with debts or financial obligations. The question of "debts" almost always plays an important role during the year marked by this superimposition.

**Annual Midheaven in the natal ninth house** indicates that the native's career will require a journey, or that a journey will influence his career. Sometimes this configuration emphasizes the importance of the native's business dealings involving foreign countries, or success coming from a distance. I have observed this position of the Midheaven at the time of a person's nomination to a consulship, in the charts of writers when their works are translated into foreign languages, as well as in the charts of many people arrested by the Occupation in 1940-44. (In this last instance the Midheaven's position was generally matched by the presence of the Ascendant in the natal Twelfth House, with strong planetary afflictions.)

**If the Midheaven of the Solar Return coincides with its natal position**, it is generally a good sign for everything involving profession, occupation, reputation or fortune. As we stated earlier, the conjunction of the angles indicates a rather important year.

**Midheaven in the natal eleventh house** indicates a career at least partially dependent on friends or connections. In general it is a very good omen for the achievement of the native's plans and aspirations during the year. Occasionally, this configuration induces him to live in, and work for, the future more than the present — sacrificing immediate rewards to a long term plan.

**Midheaven in the natal twelfth house**, lastly, generally indicates a year of great ordeal in or through the career, danger of libel, slander or difficulties in finding or keeping a job. Malefics,

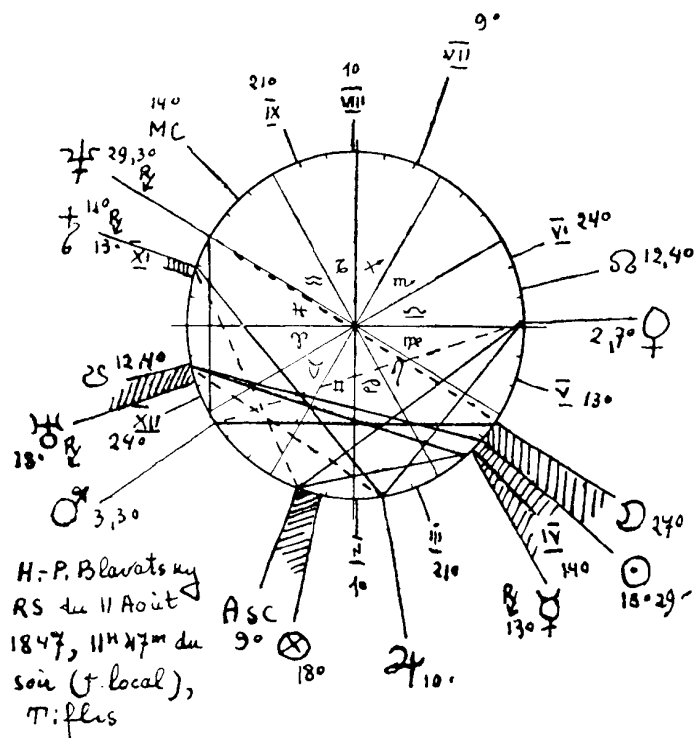
or unfavorable aspects linked to the cusp of this house will aggravate these tendencies. If the number of favorable and unfavorable configurations is about equal, this superimposition can be interpreted only as an indication that the native is discontented with his lot.

Edward VII's Solar Return preceding his abdication had this orientation of the Midheaven.

This configuration is favorable only for doctors, hospital personnel and all those whose profession is of a Twelfth House nature; even under these circumstances, a benefic at the Midheaven and a whole series of good aspects are required.

One final note: an orb of  $5^\circ$  must be allowed to the Ascendant and Midheaven of the Solar Return, i.e., if one of these angles falls at the end of a natal house, the meanings of both houses must be taken into consideration. This applies to H. P. Blavatsky's Solar Return for August 11, 1847 on this page. The annual Midheaven of this chart is  $5^\circ$  from the cusp of the natal Ninth House, and as far as we can judge from her biographies (which are, of course, subject to error), "a change in social position resulting from a journey" should be preferred to any other possible interpretation.

This Solar Return corresponds to the year of her marriage, which took place on July 7, 1848. There is an abundance of characteristic configurations. Jupiter, ruler of the annual Seventh House, is in conjunction with the natal Ascendant and in trine to the natal Midheaven and to the annual Saturn (which rules the house of marriage in the natal chart), and square to Uranus, ruler of the Midheaven of this Solar Return. This last configuration corresponds to the marriage's breaking up immediately after the ceremony: Blavatsky only agreed to it to escape her family's hold on her. This abrupt break is indicated not only by Uranus' trine to the Fourth House Sun, but also by the opposition of the Moon and Neptune. The latter configuration becomes very clear when you recall that the Moon rules the natal Ascendant, and that Neptune occupied the Seventh House of marriage at birth. In the Solar Return, the Moon is in the Fourth



H. P. BLAVATSKY'S SOLAR RETURN preceding her first marriage.

HPB SR for Aug. 11, 1847, 11:47 p.m. local time, Tiflis.

MC	14° Aquarius	ASC	9° Gemini
XI	13° Pisces	II	1° Cancer
XII	24° Aries	III	21° Cancer
Sun	18°29' Leo	Saturn	11°00' Pisces R
Moon	27°00' Leo	Uranus	18°00' Aries R
Mercury	13°00' Leo R	Neptune	29°30' Aquarius
Venus	2°07' Libra	Pluto	26°08' Aries
Mars	3°30' Taurus	N. Node	12°40' Libra
Jupiter	10°00' Cancer	Fortuna	18°00' Gemini

House, which governs the home and family, while Neptune is in the Tenth House of individual action and social position.

Since the annual Ascendant is in the natal Twelfth, it was undoubtedly a "year of ordeal" for H. P. Blavatsky. Neptune in the Midheaven, with the Gemini Ascendant and Mercury retrograde, caused much hesitation and uncertainty in making the decision which was so serious for a girl less than seventeen years old.

When interpreting the Solar Return very great importance must be given to the planet occupying the Midheaven since this planet often represents future development. For the most part it should be judged according to the natal house. A planet at the Ascendant may indicate a psychological tendency and even an urge, but the same planet at the Midheaven denotes full activity, hence an event. For example, Uranus in the Fifth House at birth and culminating in a Solar Return—an unexpected pregnancy, or problems involving children; Mars in the natal Seventh House moving to the annual Midheaven—the dissolution of a partnership; a natal Eighth House Venus in conjunction with the annual Tenth House cusp—a win at a lottery, etc. I do not need to tell you that all these significations have been observed not once but many times; but in each individual case, you must look for configurations that reinforce and confirm an indication. For example in one of the charts with Uranus culminating mentioned above, annual Venus, ruler of the natal Fifth House, was positioned in the Return, over the natal Ascendant. In another, the ruler of the annual Fifth House was in the First House of the Solar Return in conjunction with the ruler of the same natal house, etc.

Just as in the interpretation of the natal chart, you must always achieve a synthesis of all the elements, but the starting point and the general tenor of the synthesis is furnished by the orientation of the annual angles in relation to the natal houses.

## THE SUPERIMPOSITIONS OF ANNUAL HOUSES ON NATAL HOUSES

Each House in the Solar Return can be interpreted according to its relationships with the natal chart—which offers an almost incalculable variety of interpretations (comparable to the derived Houses in horary Astrology).<sup>1</sup> Thorough analysis of all the superimpositions requires a great deal of personal experience. I strongly advise beginners to concentrate exclusively on the superimpositions of those houses which contain planets, otherwise they run the very real risk of getting lost among all the possible configurations. Generally the planets make whatever is indicated by the superimposition of the houses stand out vividly—which simplifies analysis and verification, but every little item, even the most insignificant one, is usually recorded by the relationships between the annual and the natal houses.

When a house in the Solar Return falls in two natal houses, the indications furnished by these three houses must be combined, but preference must be given to the one on the cusp (within 5°). For example, if the annual Second House extends from 7°51' to 29°21' Gemini, and falls in the Sixth and Seventh Houses of the birth chart, with the cusp of the Seventh House at 18°19' Gemini, preference should be given to the significations furnished by the cusp of the Second and Sixth. But if the natal Seventh begins three or four degrees from the annual cusp, the

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<sup>1</sup>See E. Picard, *Astrologie Judiciaire*, Paris, 1932.

influence of the preceding house is practically negligible.<sup>2</sup>

The following catalogue should serve as a memory aid for interpreting these superimpositions, but it is best not to apply these interpretations to the letter, since, although they are correct, they are capable of being contravened or modified in individual instances by planetary or zodiacal influences.

**Annual second house in the natal first**—Earnings depend on the native, on his health, actions, freedom of choice, etc. In an afflicted chart, it indicates a decrease of individual freedom due to unsatisfactory financial situation, or financial affairs which are too demanding.

**Second in the second** reinforces the indications of the natal chart, and creates a favorable year for their realization. Therefore—examine the possibilities indicated by the natal chart.

**Second in the third**—Earnings depend on, or are connected with, travel, transportation, writing, brothers, sisters, or other things indicated by this house. Also, earnings derived from mental work.

**Second in the fourth** may correspond to changes in location or in conditions where native works, or to the “end” of an enterprise or job (consequently, “the end of earnings”—assuming there are malefics), or to earnings that depend on parents or real property.

**Second in the fifth**—Good or bad position for speculation. Earnings are in some way connected with pleasures, art or education (the Fifth House governs schools and technical instruction). Occasionally, with benefic or well disposed planets, this superimposition seems to favor luck with money in general, and especially in lotteries; but care in interpretation must always

<sup>2</sup>All the more so because the different systems of domnification give very different values for the Eleventh, Twelfth, Second and Third Houses. I myself have always worked with the Placidian system (which was in use well before the time of the Seventeenth Century mathematician Placidus, because the system of Alchabitius is similar). Logically it is the only scientific method of domnification.

be exercised if the annual or natal Fifth House is unfavorable, or governed by Mars, Saturn, Uranus or Neptune.

**Second in the Sixth** often indicates an inadequacy in the income, either because the native has the potential to earn more than he does or because his income is insufficient due to unfavorable circumstances. If this house contains a malefic, there is danger of financial crisis, and the native's job is threatened by inept management of funds. Well disposed, this configuration indicates income from work in a subordinate position. It can be generally stated that this position is more favorable for employees than for the self-employed or management. It is frequently seen in the charts of young people who start work for the first time in their life, i.e. their first paying job.

**Second in the seventh**—Income depends on partners, on group enterprises, or on contracts. With benefics, this superimposition could bring financial support the native requires; with malefics, danger of broken contracts, or some kind of loss caused by someone else. This superimposition can easily refer to the spouse's earnings.

**Second in the eighth**—Malefics appear to be particularly dangerous with this superimposition, since their influence is increased by the opposition between the annual Second and its natal position: danger of a “death of earnings,” i.e. loss of job, unemployment, or bankruptcy. Conversely, when well disposed, this position seems to correct the faults of the natal Second.

**Second in the ninth**—Frequently an indication that income somehow depends on law, judicial rulings or journeys. Occasionally, this superimposition denotes money coming from a distance, or placed in foreign stocks or funds.

**Second in the tenth**—Generally favorable for financial returns from the native's activities.

**Second in the eleventh**—indicates that earnings require the co-operation of friends and connections or somehow depend on them. Well-disposed, it is a good omen for the achievement of the financial ambitions of the native during the year. Sometimes it indicates a friend's request for a loan, or the reverse.

**Second in the twelfth**—If sustained by benefics or well-disposed planets, it is favorable only for income from activities that require isolation or secrecy (policemen or hospital employees, etc.), or that depend on the occult or on secret societies. In general it indicates a mediocre income that does not satisfy the native. Sometimes it indicates a situation that is difficult because of heavy obligations or debts.

**Annual third house in the natal first** favors increase in mental powers, studies, and the creation of original concepts.

**Third in the second** has a clear connection with correspondence or travel for money. This superimposition seems to center all the native's attention on his earnings.

**Third in the third** accentuates the indications of the natal house.

**Third in the fourth** frequently corresponds to change of residence. This is where to seek causes for short and long journeys (if any are indicated).

**Third in the fifth**—Favorable year for literary work and for teaching children. This superimposition especially promises short trips for pleasure. With emotional or sensual planets, it often indicates declarations of love or love letters.

**Third in the sixth**—Travel caused by job. Mind is anxious about work or health. Short trips for health reasons.

**Third in the seventh** refers to the spouse's or partner's travel, or to news received about a trial. If this house is strong and well-situated, this superimposition could bring an offer of partnership.

**Third in the eighth**—Travel caused by a death, or correspondence concerning financial investments. If the native is involved in a literary effort, it will be completed in this year. This superimposition calls for caution in undertaking new responsibilities, contracts or promises. Occasionally, the end of a correspondence.

**Third in the ninth** favors politics, philosophy and religion. With malefics, danger while traveling. Everything involving correspondence with foreign countries or with people designated by the Ninth House (judges, priests, brothers-in-law, etc.), is also ruled by this position.

**Third in the tenth**—Favorable for requests intended to bring awards and distinctions to the native, and for any writings capable of influencing the reputation in any way. This superimposition can almost always be taken as an indication of more or less official applications, and formalities that the native will be required to perform during the year.

**Third in the eleventh**—Friendly correspondence and everything that can be expected from it. This position also appears to bring changes in the plans and hopes of the native.

**Third in the twelfth**—Exhausting trips. Tedious paper work. Anxiety. Well situated, this superimposition favors everything involving occult studies.

Before concluding the Third House, we should add that if the cusp of this house is in a fixed Sign, there is little probability that the native will travel during the year. If many configurations incline toward travel, the matter will be given much energy during the year; it will be much discussed, but it will not come about, especially if the Moon and the ruler of the Third House occupy a fixed Sign.

**Annual fourth house in the natal first house**—Family matters or those involving the home dominate the year. Frequently this position concerns personal or family secrets, or it may raise questions of real estate. It seems that the influence of the native's family is accentuated by this configuration.

**Fourth in the second**—Since the Fourth House governs frozen or deposited assets, this superimposition will indicate what savings the native will make during the year. Sometimes it has an influence similar to that of the annual Second in the natal Fourth.

**Fourth in the third**—Sometimes introduces a year in which a long standing correspondence ends, or in which the native is involved with papers (Third) concerning real estate (Fourth) or in which he completes a literary work. Matters concerning the home appear to influence the native's thinking.

**Fourth in the fourth**—As in all similar superimpositions, it brings the indications and potentials of the natal Fourth House to the fore.

**Fourth in the fifth** appears to be a favorable superimposition for everyone living in the native's home. In individual instances and especially in a feminine chart it could indicate conception of a child, since the Fourth House also governs causes and hidden things.

**Fourth in the sixth**—Worry about parents' health, or about domestic matters. Often indicates illness in the family or the end of an illness for the native.

**Fourth in the seventh**— sometimes indicates the expiration of a contract or lease or the end of a trial. People involved in litigation over an inheritance often have this superimposition.

**Fourth in the eighth**—Danger of a death in the family. Sometimes the settlement of a will during the year. In feminine charts this superimposition frequently corresponds to the year of menopause, since the Eighth House governs sexuality.

**Fourth in the ninth**—Frequently indicates journeys for members of the family. This superimposition gives an estimation of the practical results obtained in divinatory science and predictions for the future in the charts of occultists.

**Fourth in the tenth**—Important superimposition for all those whose career depends on land, mines, buildings and other things governed by the Fourth House. Since the Fourth House governs causes and origins and the Tenth governs the actions of the native, this superimposition inclines the native to act according to his impulses (especially in Fire Signs) or according to his vocation (with the Air triplicity accentuated).

**Fourth in the eleventh**—End of whatever the native is expecting; in each individual instance the planets will indicate if it means realization of plans and hopes he has at the time of the birthday or not. Sometimes the place of residence will be changed by a journey.

**Fourth in the twelfth** indicates domestic worries and problems and discontent with things in the home. In Solar Returns for kings and heads of state, this superimposition enables one to evaluate the strength of the opposition and of intrigues against the state, as well as secret organizations.

**Annual fifth house in the natal first house**—indicates amorous inclinations and accentuates sensuality. In feminine charts, this superimposition is often seen in years of pregnancy, or of the birth of a child. With this superimposition it is wise to study the condition of that part of the heavens that falls in the natal Fifth House before making any judgment.

**Fifth in the second** favors wins in gambling, lotteries or in speculation, as well as extensive spending for pleasure, because it indicates the greatest amount of satisfaction provided by money (assuming there is no intervention by malefics—especially Saturn).

**Fifth in the third** generally indicates a sexual relationship (in masculine charts), or pleasure trips. This superimposition favors literary production because it promises satisfaction from all kinds of writing and from correspondence. Sometimes this position corresponds to the year of engagement for brothers, sisters or cousins, or it could indicate a birth among the latter.

**Fifth in the fourth**—often highlights matters of betrothals in the family. When sustained by benefic planetary influence, this superimposition encourages beautification of the home.

**Fifth in the fifth** operates, as do all analogous positions, by accentuating the indications of the natal house.



**Fifth in the sixth**—Depending on the planetary configurations, which will accentuate one or another signification of this superimposition, it may correspond to emotional or sexual attraction to a social inferior, or to danger of a contagious illness, or to anxiety over the illness of a child. On the other hand, since the Sixth House governs pets, this superimposition could indicate the pleasure they give.

**Fifth in the seventh** indicates luck or happiness in marriage, partnership, contract or other Seventh House matters. This position may also indicate the marriage of a partner.

**Fifth in the eighth**—An indication of gifts given or received, and the satisfaction they bring. This superimposition should be considered favorable for games of chance and for speculation if malefics or afflicted planets do not bring their influence to bear.

**Fifth in the ninth** brings expansion of understanding, satisfaction from travel, learning, law practice, religion or success in studies (since the Fifth House governs technical education). In charts of artists, this superimposition encourages foreign tours; in the Solar Return for a chief of state, it favors foreign policy and colonial expansion. Since the Fifth House also governs love, it frequently indicates some emotional gratifications during, or as a result of, travel; or perhaps a separation in the love life.

**Fifth in the tenth**—Since the Fifth House governs creation in the broadest sense of the word and the tenth governs the career and profession, this superimposition favors independent action in the area of the native's professional activity or social position. It appears to be very closely connected with the rewards and consequences of the native's actions. It is a favorable superimposition for requesting and obtaining an award, assuming planetary configurations do not disfavor it. It often indicates the repercussions the love life has on the social position (engagement rather than marriage) as well as the successes of children.

**Fifth in the eleventh** generally promises pleasures given by friends or connections, or by their mediation, and the birth of new projects, desires, aspirations and hopes or ambitions concerning children. However, with malefics, this superimposition could be a threat to Fifth House matters because of its opposition to its natal position.

**Fifth in the twelfth** indicates satisfactions mixed with discontent: for example, a love affair that does not exactly conform to the native's aspirations, or a child whose health causes some anxiety. In general, an unfavorable position for gambling and speculation. In feminine charts this superimposition appears to have a specific connection with difficulties during pregnancy.

**Annual sixth house in the natal first house** usually indicates little freedom of choice in the coming year (because the Sixth House is one of subordination). It promises a bad year for all independent projects. If the Solar Return in its entirety exerts an unfavorable influence on health, this superimposition threatens the native with a frightening but temporary illness (i.e., not chronic).

**Sixth in the second** frequently indicates a danger of interruption and irregularities in income. This superimposition seems to decrease the native's ability to work unless his profession has something to do with the Sixth House (i.e., illnesses, food, domestic animals, ships or small co-operative organizations).

**Sixth in the third**—With malefics, danger of contracting an illness while traveling (with Mars or Neptune—contagious illness, like the grippe; Saturn—a cold; Uranus—an accident, etc.) Most frequently this superimposition should be interpreted as a sign of bad health for brothers, sisters or neighbors. If dignified it is especially favorable for salesmen, booksellers, lecturers and all those whose profession is governed by the Third House.

**Sixth in the fourth**—Bad for harvests in farmers' charts (since this superimposition could be interpreted as "illness of the

land"). Sometimes it has the same influence as that of the annual Fourth House on the natal sixth.

**Sixth in the fifth** involves unpleasantness in the emotional life, illness or difficulties as a result of pleasures, or the bad health of children. In a good configuration, this superimposition may indicate a pleasant or easy job.

**Sixth in the sixth**—The same as all similar superimpositions; it must be interpreted according to the natal chart.

**Sixth in the seventh**—A bad position (unless helped by benefics) for the spouse's health, and for partnerships, contracts and trials. Legal proceedings should not be begun, and great care must be taken in the signing of contracts during the year marked by this superimposition, because it appears to predispose the native to mistakes or unfortunate omissions.

**Sixth in the eighth** often threatens the "death" or arrest (temporary or otherwise) of a vital function, especially if this superimposition is accentuated by several planetary configurations. This superimposition is frequently seen at the time of menopause. If connected with the Second and Tenth House, it threatens loss of a job (if the native is an employee, of course). Sometimes it refers to the native's anxieties about investments or about regaining money loaned out.

**Sixth in the ninth** does not favor travel; journeys occur under unfavorable conditions, or they cause worry, problems or even an illness. If the Ninth House is considered in its connection with the mind, this superimposition indicates times of scepticism, doubts or the slow and difficult development of religious ideas.

**Sixth in the tenth** decreases freedom of action; the career or social situation causes worry. Indicates obstacles and difficulties in professional enterprises. Benefic co-operation between the planets is required to prevent this superimposition from being unfavorable.

**Sixth in the eleventh** should be considered as a sign that the native may see desires, ambitions and plans compromised.

With the ruler of the Third House well placed or aspected, or perhaps benefic by nature, this superimposition may bring an offer of work from friends. With malefics—the threat of illness or a dangerous accident for a friend.

**Sixth in the twelfth**—Chronic troubles and illnesses tend to show new symptoms. It also indicates a diet which is unsuitable for the native who should pay more attention to his health and to his general living conditions.

**Annual seventh house in the natal first house** indicates that the social life will play an important role in that year. In mutable signs this superimposition indicates rather contradictory tendencies: occasionally the native himself does not quite know what he wants and hesitates to choose between his own desires or ideas and suggestions coming from those around him. It is also an indication that the spouse has too much control over him.

**Seventh in the second** appears to favor (or disfavor, depending on the planets) income from different sources; in this position the Seventh House "marries" the possibility of simultaneous earnings to the native's major source of income. Sometimes this superimposition has a similar effect to that of the annual Second House in the natal Seventh, which we discussed earlier, but more frequently it indicates a multiplication of the sources of income or money coming from legal proceedings.

**Seventh in the third** tends to differences in opinion with the spouse or partners. Since, in masculine charts the Third House governs the mistress and occasionally the lover in feminine charts,<sup>1</sup> this configuration frequently indicates the native's or the

<sup>1</sup>In the west it is often forgotten that Gemini (the original sign of the third house) is primarily a sign of sexual polarity and sexual attraction. For this reason it is represented by lovers in some Far Eastern Zodiacs (and not by two children arm-in-arm, as in ours). The 1499 engraving which we have reproduced on page 48 suggests that these children are of different sexes.

spouse's infidelity. Since the principal significance of the Seventh House is to complement the native (or whatever is represented by the First House), and the Third governs travel, this superimposition generally indicates the necessity of repeating a trip, or going through many steps to conclude a legal affair.

**Seventh in the fourth**—Well-disposed, this superimposition favors contracts and business relations with older people (Fourth House governs the end of life). It also seems to be connected with settlements of inheritance, real estate, mortgages or leases.

**Seventh in the fifth**—In charts of single people it raises the question of legalization of a relationship (Fifth House) by marriage (principal significance of the Seventh House). If dignified, this superimposition is very favorable for contracts in any way connected with art, jewelry, amusement or competitive exams. Sometimes it indicates a rivalry in love or the marriage of the native's children (depending on the overall chart).

**Seventh in the sixth**—With malefics, danger of complications in an illness, or a relapse. If the Sixth House is interpreted as obligatory work, this superimposition indicates an increase in work: it may be seen in the chart of an employee who is forced to assume part of the work of a sick colleague. Since the Sixth House governs domestic animals, this configuration also influences the breeding of small animals. Occasionally it operates like the inverse superimposition of the annual Sixth House in the natal Seventh.

**Seventh in the seventh** reinforces the indications of the natal chart.

**Seventh in the eighth** generally concerns the results (favorable or otherwise) of legal proceedings, or indicates contracts involving capital (buying or selling of stocks, annuities, etc.). With Neptune, this configuration may bring to light a mistake made by the spouse or partner. With Mars, this superimposition promises conflicts of opinion and disagreements, either over money or over something from the past ("dead" is the character of the Eighth House). With Uranus,

there is danger of loss or theft of a deed, stock, rent, etc., or of an antique.

**Seventh in the ninth** deals with partnerships, contracts and reunions made either with persons from foreign countries or while on long trips, or it may concern a scientific or literary collaboration.

**Seventh in the tenth** very frequently makes the native's position dependent on legal proceedings or a partnership. With malefics, it is a sign of strife and competition in his profession or for a position, or fluctuations in business due to the activities of another. This position could also indicate marriage or remarriage of the mother in the chart of children.

**Seventh in the eleventh** makes single people best men or bridesmaids at weddings. In fire signs or with aggressive planets, it indicates that struggle is demanded for achievement of plans and ambitions. Also it indicates changes in relations with friends; with Venus—reconciliations may be predicted; with Saturn—absences; with Neptune—chaotic complications that make relations very uncertain, etc.

**Seventh in the twelfth**—unfavorable for social life. Causes complications and problems involving legal proceedings, contracts, partnerships or married life. Sometimes this configuration indicates a general weakening of the spouse's or partner's health, or disloyal actions, intrigues, infidelities or a secret or concealed marriage or agreement.

**Annual eighth house in the natal first house** generally indicates strife or anxiety over responsibilities or finances, weakening of the health or bereavement. This superimposition also frequently indicates the year of death (see chapter on "Solar Returns for the Year of Death" later in this book).

**Eighth in the second**—With malefics, danger of loss of income (loss of job, closing of a business, etc.) With benefics, however, this superimposition indicates the increase of income from sources governed by the Eighth House, such as donations, gifts, inheritance, money from legal proceedings, etc.



Woodcut depicting a Zodiac from *Scriptore Astronomici* printed by Alde in 1499

**Eighth in the third** may correspond to a change in investments or to the death of brothers, cousins or colleagues. With Mercury, or the ruler of the Third House afflicted, this superimposition will cause the loss of letters, manuscripts or other papers during the course of the year.

**Eighth in the fourth**—Frequently seen in years when a death in the family occurs, or sale or loss of real estate. This superimposition seems especially dangerous in farmers' charts, since with malefics or unfavorable conditions it brings destruction of crops.

**Eighth in the fifth** generally indicates the end of an emotional attachment or the death of a child (sometimes this superimposition brings not physical death, but the separation of

native and child, so that the latter is no longer with the native physically). In the charts of old actors, this configuration corresponds to the end of their artistic career. With benefic planets, it indicates luck in gambling, lotteries, speculations, etc., and should be interpreted as an indication of capital (Eighth) in expansion (Fifth).

**Eighth in the sixth** increases domestic expenses—especially for health, or indicates the death of uncles, aunts, employees or servants. With benefics, this superimposition favors the health, since it literally means “the death (Eighth) of illness (Sixth).” Great care must be exercised in writing a will or making a contribution during the year marked by this position, because it will bring regrets or be badly drawn up.

**Eighth in the seventh**—With malefics, foretells a severing of relations with a person close to the native, sometimes that person's death. This configuration often operates in the same manner as the inverse position (annual Eleventh House on the natal Eighth).

**Eighth in the eighth** accentuates natal indications.

**Eighth in the ninth**—In charts of people involved in legal proceedings, this should be considered an indication of an appeal to a higher court or an indication of foreign investment or foreign certificates or loans. If we interpret the Ninth House as religion or philosophic ideas, this superimposition should be interpreted as a tremendous development of the same, involving the rejection (death) of some beliefs or ideas.

**Eighth in the tenth** indicates material or psychological responsibilities which burden the native and could make his career difficult. If the whole of the Solar Return is very unfavorable, this superimposition could indicate the loss of a position, or dismissal from a job. With the support of favorable planets and configurations, it could indicate improvement in the career through the spouse's financial resources or through a loan.

**Eighth in the eleventh** indicates danger of a death in the native's circle of friends. With malefics, this superimposition

should be interpreted as an indication of the "death of plans." With Pluto, it seems to indicate a profound transformation in the plans and aspirations of the native under the influence of events and circumstances which take place during the year. With benefics, it could bring noticeable advantages from friends.

**Eighth in the twelfth** could signify a need for putting some debts and responsibilities in order, or a decrease in causes of worry. If the Solar Return is unfavorable for health, this configuration tends to incline toward falls, fainting or the aggravation of a chronic condition. With benefics or good configurations, this superimposition could indicate a year which marks the end of a long unfavorable period in the native's life, and in which he begins a better era (this can easily be seen by comparing the Solar Returns from several years in succession). In this last instance, this configuration taken literally indicates "the death of troubles."

**Annual ninth house in the natal first** accentuates philosophic or religious inclinations, or may send the native on journeys. It is a favorable position for all original ideas.

**Ninth in the second** mostly indicates desires and ambitions involving money. Sometimes this superimposition acts like that of the annual Second in the natal Ninth.

**Ninth in the third** appears to be connected with trips for research or culminating in various sorts of investigations. Since the houses involved are complementary, this superimposition often seems to have the same interpretation as the inverse one of annual Third in natal Ninth.

**Ninth in the fourth** tends to orient the mind toward traditional ideas, or to increase interest in things of the past; it frequently brings trips for the purpose of visiting parents or historical monuments, or trips to an already familiar place.

**Ninth in the fifth** favors exams and competitions, or very frequently it corresponds to pleasure cruises and travel, and to

travel by children. Sometimes the effects of this superimposition are analogous to those of the annual Fifth House in the natal Ninth.

**Ninth in the sixth**—An unfavorable sign for travel except for reasons of health or service and assuming that the superimposition of the houses is aided by benefics or favorable planetary configurations. It is often an indication of difficulty in making a trip.

**Ninth in the seventh** appears to attract the native toward philosophical, social or scientific groups, since this position represents mental affinity with others. Sometimes it indicates a journey made by the spouse, which causes a separation.

**Ninth in the eighth** generally oppresses the mind with the idea of death, with financial worries or with memories. If the native is planning a trip for the year indicated by this configuration, and if the rulers of the Ninth and Eleventh Houses are afflicted or retrograde, it will not take place.

**Ninth in the ninth** has the same effect as all analogous superimpositions.

**Ninth in the tenth** facilitates job changes and promotion and increases ambition. Very often this superimposition brings awards or rewards for the native's intellectual activity—distinctions such as academic honors and literary or scientific prizes (assuming, of course, there are favorable configurations).

**Ninth in the eleventh** brings a change in plans or in friendships—sometimes through the departure or arrival of a friend.

**Ninth in the twelfth**—Generally an unfavorable position for intellectual or independent work, unless this is devoted to occultism, or other Twelfth House matters. Unfavorable for long trips. Very often this configuration indicates mental fatigue.

The significations for the superimpositions of the annual Tenth House were given in the preceding chapter.

**Annual eleventh house in the natal first house** increases the native's receptivity to the people around him. There will be more plans and hopes than achievements during the year, unless the Solar Return is exceptionally favorable.

**Eleventh in the second** concerns business connections or people involved financially. With malefics, this superimposition indicates that financial hopes will be disappointed.

**Eleventh in the third** promotes reconciliation with brothers and colleagues, and predisposes the native to small reciprocal favors. With benefics, it is a good position for competitions, exhibitions, athletic exhibitions, etc.

**Eleventh in the fourth** generally indicates the end of a friendship or of an association, or indicates hopes which depend on the productivity of buildings harvests or inheritances.

**Eleventh in the fifth** warns the native to keep an eye on his children's associations. For the native personally, this superimposition facilitates judgment of his amorous aspirations. Sometimes it operates like the reverse configuration.

**Eleventh in the sixth** indicates work plans and appears to facilitate advancement in employees charts. This configuration often has an influence similar to that of the annual Sixth House in the natal Eleventh.

**Eleventh in the seventh** indicates plans and hopes for marriage, or partnerships with people the native already knows at the time of the Solar Return. With malefics, there is the danger of having relationships with friends ruined (temporarily or permanently) because of a third person.

**Eleventh in the eighth** generally indicates that realization of the native's plans or aspirations depends on money not earned, whether capital (his own or someone else's, e.g., a silent partner) or a "stroke of luck" (e.g., win at a lottery). Sometimes this superimposition indicates hope of an inheritance.

**Eleventh in the ninth** generally emphasizes the role of intellectual friendships and associations during the year marked by this superimposition, and it indicates that hopes could be in-

fluenced by things at a distance (letters from foreign countries, persons or business far from the place where the native resides, etc.)

**Eleventh in the tenth** facilitates judgment of the role played by friends, associates and patrons during the year. With malefics, or if the ruler is afflicted, this superimposition is dangerous; it always indicates worries or problems caused by business associates.

**Eleventh in the eleventh** should be interpreted the same as all analogous superimpositions, according to the differences between the natal and annual charts, i.e., according to the changes wrought by the planets.

**Eleventh in the twelfth** always indicates some unpleasantness with friends. The presence of Venus and Jupiter will not preclude annoyance from friends and associates, but it will prevent this from ending in a quarrel. On the other hand, this configuration tends to thwart plans and hopes, at least temporarily, through more or less unexpected misfortunes and problems.

**Annual twelfth house in the natal first** is generally an indication of worry and discontent. However, this superimposition appears to favor occult studies.

**Twelfth in the second** indicates worries about money and a tendency toward lies or secrets about it. It appears to be less unfavorable than the reverse configuration, although its significations frequently resemble those of the annual Second in the natal Twelfth.

**Twelfth in the third** makes travel dangerous, especially with malefics. Also an indication of problems or worry caused by letters or writing.

**Twelfth in the fourth** indicates weakening of the parents' health, worry about the home, or problems concerning real estate. If the native is a landlord, this configuration tends to bring vacant apartments or need for costly repairs. As far as

the health is concerned, this configuration appears to bring falls and stomach troubles.

**Twelfth in the fifth** predisposes the native to hidden love affairs. In feminine charts at a time of pregnancy, this superimposition brings danger of all sorts of complications or very painful delivery.

**Twelfth in the sixth** indicates worries about health, and often hinders the completion of work.

**Twelfth in the seventh**—An unfavorable configuration for good relations in marriage or partnership. With benefics, it brings mutual secrets—preoccupations and worries that are kept hidden from the spouse or partner in order not to upset the other person. Occasionally this configuration has an influence similar to that of the inverse superimposition of the annual Seventh House in the natal Twelfth House.

**Twelfth in the eighth** indicates worries about death or the fear of death, perhaps the native's if he is sick, or the death of someone close to the native. Sometimes it is an indication of worry about an inheritance or about bad investments.

**Twelfth in the ninth** seems to increase fatalism, and a philosophic attitude in suffering (if the latter is indicated, and if the house does not contain Mars). But if there are many planets in the Twelfth House, this superimposition is essentially one of infractions—often involuntary—against laws and ordinances, hence notarized statements, involvements with the police or disputes with the tax people.

**Twelfth in the tenth** indicates that circumstances thwart the native's freedom of action and that he is forced to conform to routine, to reckon with the reactions of his associates or with accepted methods and manners or that the native is forced to act diplomatically and use circuitous means to achieve his purposes. Sometimes it is an indication of responsibilities or moral obligations that burden his work.

**Twelfth in the eleventh**—Unfavorable for associations, it brings deceptions from friends. Care is necessary in this area,

since sometimes this superimposition transforms friends into secret enemies and brings secret operations unfavorable to the native. Positive signs on the cusp with benefics do not appear to prevent these underhanded and disloyal actions, but they attenuate their effects and expose their perpetrators quickly. This superimposition could also be interpreted as an indication of a hindrance to the realization of ambition and projects.

**Twelfth in the twelfth** accentuates the indications of the natal chart.

To conclude these notes on the significance of the relationships of the annual and natal houses, we should add that, generally, a number of superimpositions refer to the same thing or to different aspects of the same event. For example, in a Solar Return corresponding to the long-awaited sale of a building, the Ascendant was at the natal Midheaven, the annual Fourth was superimposed mostly on the natal Second, the Midheaven was in the natal house of contracts (Seventh), etc.

On the other hand each of these superimpositions could present a whole series of different meanings and nuances which the astrologer must uncover in each individual instance, working from the signs, planets, aspects and rulerships involved. For example, the annual Eighth House in the natal Fifth could indicate the death of a child, or of a creation, and the end of a relationship, as well as the use of capital in speculation, or a theatrical undertaking, or an increase in sensuality; it could have a favorable as well as an unfavorable influence. It is impossible to foresee in advance all the possible combinations and transpose them into formulae. The exact meaning is part of the synthesis of the chart, in which intuition and individual judgment play a large part. Here we can only indicate the most common meanings of these superimpositions.

## CHAPTER 6

THE INDICATIONS FURNISHED  
BY THE SIGNS OF THE ZODIAC

The sign on the cusp of each house clearly colors the superimposition with its own meaning in each individual case, but it would be impossible to catalogue all the possible variations. As an example of this coloring we will quote Janduz, who states that, when in the charts of those born under Taurus, "in a given year Taurus re-occupies the First House in the Solar Return, the year will be very contradictory and eventful. Good friends, patrons or people who respect the native will aid him to achieve a position which will then incite envy or resentment in them; money loaned out or entrusted to someone will not be returned; the native's wife or work will cause trouble or disappointment."<sup>1</sup>

Although information from this author must always be used very cautiously because of the frequent errors, distortions, and reckless assertions in her books—I believe that this observation is accurate.

My own observations enable me to state that the **annual Ascendant in Aries** makes the native more independent, but also more reckless than previously; this orientation of the annual chart often creates a tendency toward impulsive acts, more or less improvised beginnings and hurried decisions; and it in-

dicates a lack of patience. This position is often seen during a year where the native sets himself up on his own or becomes released from some sort of servitude (freedom for a prisoner, end of a debt, etc.); it is generally the sign of the beginning of a new life, the promise (or the desire, if the overall Solar Return is unfavorable) of change that marks the start of a new cycle. This position of the annual Ascendant increases energy, and often promises the arrival of conditions that will help the native escape his former status (social or intellectual). It is a sign of the renewing of life. The interception of Aries in the First House also shows aspiration to a change that would liberate the native, but very often without the power to achieve it.

**Annual Ascendant in Taurus** increases sensuality, and there is a danger this will be revealed by some deviations in conduct; monetary matters bring a change in relationships, and there is often a connection between finances and feelings (e.g., financial calculations in love plans).

With **annual Ascendant in Gemini** the life is visibly dominated by events involving relatives, and the native depends much more on others than on his own will. Departures, or conversely, arrivals of people to whom the native feels close always take place during years marked by this superimposition. Very often the native himself travels to accompany or meet his relatives. His receptivity is increased, and reunions or new acquaintances (generally met away from his home) play a significant role.

**Annual Ascendant in Cancer** indicates that family or domestic affairs, often quite previous to the year in question, assume more importance. It is a favorable position for everything involving politics and public life (if the Moon is not too afflicted, of course), although it tends to make the native more reserved and secretive at least about the things with which he is most concerned. The annual Ascendant in Cancer also accentuates emotiveness, and if the Moon is even slightly afflicted by Saturn (or is in a Saturnian Sign), the year is marked by regrets and nostalgic reverie, occasionally by pointless remorse and even a complex or neurosis about getting old.

<sup>1</sup>*Encyclopédie Astrologique Française*, Paris, 1936, p. 87.



**Annual Ascendant in Leo** shows that the affections occupy center stage. This orientation frequently indicates an optimistic attitude, abundant vitality (especially if the Ascendant is in the natal Third, Fifth or Eleventh House) and a hearty appetite for life. Furthermore, this position of the annual Ascendant frequently marks a year devoted to the fullest expression of the personality, a kind of personal success (in an area indicated either by the natal house where it falls, or by the annual house occupied by the Sun). With the Sun badly posited or afflicted, the native will suffer from a lack of sincerity in those close to him; frequently a kind of modesty or pride also inhibits him from being open with others, which creates a certain inner solitude.

**Annual Ascendant in Virgo** indicates that freedom of choice plays an insignificant role, and that conflicts of interest are to be expected. It is a position of servitude, responsibilities of all kinds and subordination to other people and circumstances (sometimes to both). Success demands diplomacy and cunning. This orientation of the annual chart generally puts the accent on everyday work without great scope, and it often concerns practical matters, means of maintaining or insuring comfort, well-being, the status quo and customary habits of living. Infectious or viral diseases are very common with the Ascendant in Virgo, especially if it receives unfavorable aspects.

**Annual Ascendant in Libra** generally indicates reconciliations or partnerships with people outside of the family. Frequently strangers bring more happiness than the family because this is pre-eminently a position of the worldly and social life (it is seen in years corresponding to marriages and all sorts of unions). The increase of associates and clientele, membership in groups and receipt of invitations may all result.

**Annual Ascendant in Scorpio** is a position bringing all kinds of difficulties. It depicts a year of unyielding effort and struggles, frequently with dubious results. This Ascendant seems to predispose the native to conflicts, lawsuits and legal complications in one way or another, sometimes even against his will.

These conflicts often play a very important role in the years indicated by this orientation. A Solar Return must be very favorable to prevent this Ascendant from bringing a difficult year with some kind of disintegration, or at least a death among the native's associates.

**Annual Ascendant in Sagittarius** indicates expansion of the personality, i.e., of interests and inclinations, new ideas and projects or the expansion of business affairs making the native more free and independent. It is also a sure sign of long trips. The more the orientation of the preceding annual chart was troublesome or difficult, the more this one will be favorable and fortunate, assuming Jupiter and Pluto (Volguine considers Pluto a co-ruler of Sagittarius. Ed.) are not heavily afflicted in the Return chart.

**Annual Ascendant in Capricorn** brings everything involving the career to the foreground, sometimes more forcefully than does Capricorn at the natal Midheaven. But if Saturn is even slightly afflicted, worries about business are unavoidable. This position seems to increase ambition and perseverance.

**Annual Ascendant in Aquarius** emphasizes the importance of the social life and of relationships that are in some way profitable. But an unfavorably aspected Uranus can cause rapid and unexpected reversals in friendships. This orientation seems to predispose the native to live more in the future and in his plans than in the present.

**Annual Ascendant in Pisces** generally brings wavering decision and a tendency to discouragement, or a kind of fatalism that prevents the native from seeing clearly and making long-range plans. Here circumstances are stronger than his will, but there is a pronounced sense of opportunism. Very rarely will this position indicate anything other than a difficult year, but in this configuration there is a kind of "passive good luck" which does not keep troubles away, but which always prevents the worst from happening. Jupiter in a favorable position will cause difficulties to work out all by themselves.

Note also that if the angles of a Solar Return coincide with the cardinal points, it will be a remarkable year filled with major events.

The interception of a sign in any house of the Solar Return is very important—just as in the natal chart—and frequently dangerous; but instead of the psychological interpretation the natal chart demands, in the Return chart there is a more pronounced influence on events. Even without planets, the house with the intercepted signs will leave a strong mark on the year. The interception of Leo in the Tenth House is rarely good, and if accompanied by an afflicted Sun, it can be truly catastrophic (I have seen it in Solar Returns of imprisonment and capture, as well as in charts of bankruptcy, loss of position and unemployment). The interception of Taurus in the Tenth House clearly hurts job security or creates serious worries about money. But the interception of Aries in the annual First House improves the oppressive influence of Pisces on the Ascendant and generally corresponds to a person who is bowed by the circumstances but who fights back and knows exactly what he wants.

It should not be difficult to deduce the individual coloration of the zodiacal signs from the significations of the annual houses in the natal houses working from this list of the characteristic colorations of the Ascendant in the signs and completing it. If the annual Ascendant is superimposed on the natal Sixth or Twelfth House (which we have noted is a bad sign for health) and is in Taurus, the certainty of throat or ear trouble must be added to the interpretations already given. If the same Ascendant is in Capricorn, there is danger of skin diseases and so forth. The seriousness of these problems depends on the overall Solar Return.

One more example: the annual Eleventh House is superimposed on the natal Twelfth and is in Cancer: this indicates that the problems or confusions indicated by this position will be caused by a woman, probably an absent relative, or a friend considered one of the family. If this configuration is in Libra, it involves a person connected more with the spouse than with the native. In Gemini, it will be someone younger than the native. In Capricorn, an older person will be involved.

## THE ROLE OF THE PLANETS IN THE SOLAR RETURN

As in the natal chart, the planets in the Solar Return should be judged:

1. *According to their strength in the zodiacal sign;*
2. *According to the annual house they occupy;*
3. *According to their mutual relationships;*
4. *According to the houses they rule.*

For the Sun, which cannot change its place, weakness or strength is not significant and should not be taken into consideration. Also with a Solar Return, it is advisable to give more attention to the rulership of a house than to the sign occupied by a planet. This is understandable for purely astronomical reasons: if the Sun is in Leo, for example, Mercury and Venus, who are never very far from the luminary, could be only in Cancer, Leo, or Virgo; while Uranus may occupy the same sign for seven Solar Returns in a row, because it moves so slowly. So indications furnished by the rulership of a planet over a house, or its presence in a house, should be considered of major importance unless there is a concentration of planets in a zodiacal sign—which automatically emphasizes the nature of the sign (for example, H. P. Blavatsky's Solar Return for August 11, 1874 at Philadelphia, with five planets in Leo, sign of the heart and power of attraction, which brought her second marriage on April 3, 1875 to Mr. Bettalay—a marriage as unfortunate and disappointing as the first).

As in the natal chart, angular planets in an annual chart have special importance. Frequently it seems the planet which is first to cross an angle in the Solar Return imprints its own individual character on the principal development of the year. For this reason, a malefic in an angle of the Solar Return is essentially dangerous.

**Sun in the First House of the Solar Return** encourages independent action and makes the native more appreciated than in other years. Besides this favorable indication for personal success, note carefully the house ruled by the Sun: this house in the Solar Return will always be highlighted during the year. In this position the Sun appears to operate more by its rulership than by the house occupied.

**Sun in the Second House of the Solar Return** seems to clarify earnings and make them come more easily (assuming it is not too afflicted). This position increases luck in business matters but often makes the native think too ambitiously. For married women, it is an indication of an increase of the husband's income.

**Sun in the Third House of the Solar Return** favors a relative (brother, sister, cousin . . .) more than the native himself. For the native, it is a sign of success (or failure, if there are many unfavorable aspects) in more or less official applications, or ones made to people in high places. The degree of success in studies may be judged from the aspects received by the Sun.

**Sun in the Fourth House of the Solar Return** will influence not only things ruled by this house (parents, property, etc.) but more especially the last third of the year: depending on its aspects and houses governed, it indicates good fortune or misfortune, as well as the events of this third of the year. Unafflicted, this position favors all activities involving real estate.

**Sun in the Fifth House of the Solar Return** indicates expansion of awareness if it governs the Ascendant, Third, or Ninth House; or of business if it governs the Second or Tenth; of

relationships, if it rules the Eleventh. In feminine charts this position could generally be considered a contraindication for conception. In fact, in view of the Sun's connection with sterility, it is doubtful that this could be considered a very characteristic indication if one regards this house from the point of view of children. In this area it behaves like any planet: well-aspected, it favors the native's relationships with his children; afflicted, it indicates trouble from that area. But since in the majority of cases there is a mixture of favorable and unfavorable aspects, it is difficult to make serious predictions on the basis of the position of the Sun in this house alone without considering the overall chart.

**Sun in the Sixth House of the Solar Return** is an unfavorable position for health, or more frequently, for the things the Sun governs in the Solar Return. In unfavorable aspect with Mars and connected (by rulership or aspects) with the Tenth House—there is danger of the native damaging his career by hasty action which was meant to improve his position or obtain a promotion.

**Sun in the Seventh House** favors the spouse or the partner more than the native. It is a good position for social or political action. Sometimes it is an indication of clarification of the relationship with the spouse, partner or colleague. In a lawsuit or competition of any kind, this position indicates a well-armed and dangerous adversary who has influential support. This danger is increased where the Sun opposes the Ascendant.

**Sun in the Eighth House** is an indication of a death during the year.<sup>1</sup> With benefic aspects this configuration favors investments, winning a trial, favorable conclusion of a lawsuit, increase in revenues, and decrease in debts.

**Sun in the Ninth House** seems to especially increase ambition. If the Sun is not too afflicted, this position is clearly favorable for everything ruled by this house (spiritual development, education, long trips, etc.).

<sup>1</sup>See the chapter "Solar Returns of Death" later in the book.

**Sun in the Tenth House** is a good indication of professional success. The native's reputation tends to spread, and he can always find the credit and patronage necessary. This position is frequently seen in years of promotion or in years where there is some outstanding act on the part of the native. If afflicted, its good influence is of course decreased, but advancement could come anyway, although with difficulties.

**Sun in the Eleventh House** facilitates realization of plans and hopes (unless heavily afflicted)—especially plans and ambitions related to the house ruled by the Sun in the Solar Return. Very frequently there is an increase in ambitions during the year. It also indicates an important friend in the native's life during the year to come.

**Sun in the Twelfth House** seems to be connected with discomforts and troubles with a "benefic" character: an illness that frees the organism from toxic matter, or the revelation of a hidden disease that forces the native to seek treatment. Here the Sun "brings light" and reveals the discomforts that are hatching inside the organism. This position clearly favors success in things governed by this house. If the Sun is very afflicted, it threatens the health because it indicates that the organism is being overtaxed.

Contrary to the opinion espoused by H. Gouchon and J. Reverchon in Volume II of their *Dictionnaire Astrologique*,<sup>2</sup> which assigns relatively little importance to the Moon in the Solar Return (except where it is in conjunction with superior planets, or in conjunction or opposition to the Sun), I believe that its position is important<sup>3</sup> especially if it occupies a place already emphasized in the natal chart, or if the natal or annual Ascendant is in Cancer, or Taurus (exaltation of the Moon). It is also probable that its influence is stronger in feminine charts than in masculine ones. Whatever the case, its significations in

<sup>2</sup>p. 158. This divergence of opinion does not prevent me from having the highest respect for these two authors.

<sup>3</sup>This is also von Klöckler's opinion.

the houses of the Solar Return may be summarized as follows:

**Moon in the First House** is always dangerous to health, especially in a feminine chart, because this position, if unfavorably aspected, indicates functional problems or diseases. In masculine charts, this position indicates that women will play an important part in the native's life in the coming year. If the Moon governs the annual Second or Tenth House, the wife's influence will be exerted on the career; the aspects, in each individual instance, will specify whether this feminine intervention will be favorable to the native or not. Psychologically, this position makes the native more sensitive and impressionable, and creates a great deal of instability, and tendency to change (especially when close to the Ascendant).

**Moon in the Second House** tends toward financial fluctuations which will generally appear at a time in accordance with symbolic and real aspects, which we will explain in Chapter Nine. Afflicted, it indicates danger of theft or loss.

**Moon in the Third House** is mainly an indication of short trips. It also influences the native's relations with those around him; if unfavorably aspected, there is danger of disagreement with feminine acquaintances and development of hidden illnesses. If it is aspected by Saturn, it promises little intimacy with those around him. With a disharmonic aspect from Neptune or Mercury—criticism and gossip; unfavorably aspected by Mars—arguments, disputes and quarrels.

**Moon in the Fourth House** indicates some changes in the family or home. This position frequently brings up the question of a change of residence. In a fixed sign, and in unfavorable aspect with Saturn, the change will probably not take place or will cause almost insurmountable difficulties, but this position will make the native dissatisfied with his home. In a farmer's chart, harvests will be bad. If dignified and well aspected, the Moon favors agriculture.

The Moon was in the Fourth House of the Solar Return before H. P. Blavatsky's first marriage.

**Moon in the Fifth House** tends to changes in the affections and in the love life. If afflicted, danger of infidelity. In feminine charts, the Moon in the Fifth or Seventh House seems to favor conception and is often seen in years of pregnancy. Jupiter in the Fifth or Tenth also favors fertility. In charts of old people, this position refers to children or to speculation. If the Moon is dignified and well aspected, it is an indication of luck in gambling or the lottery. If it governs the Third or Ninth House, and is not in a fixed sign, a number of trips for pleasure can be expected (also if the Moon is in the Third or Ninth, and governs the Fifth).

**Moon in the Sixth House** is a very dangerous position for health, especially in a feminine chart. If the Moon is afflicted, it is also a bad omen for trade.

**Moon in the Seventh House** signifies help coming from the wife. Depending on the aspects, this position indicates a modification—favorable or otherwise—in marriage, social life or partnerships. If the Moon is in opposition to the Ascendant, some fluctuations in health can be expected, especially for women. In feminine charts this position favors conception.

**Moon in the Eighth House** signifies a bad year to begin a legal action (unless the Moon is in Taurus or Cancer). Dignified, it appears to favor the spouse's finances more than the native's. There is also probability of illness among the native's associates (wife's illness in a man's chart).

**Moon in the Ninth House** favors journeys, especially with the family or with intimate friends; it seems to exert a very good influence (even if unfavorably aspected) on scientific, occult and psychic experiments, because it increases intuition and can bring moments of inspiration.

**Moon in the Tenth House** indicates a great deal of activity and change in matters concerned with the increase—or conversely—the loss of popularity. If the Moon rules the Seventh House (natal or annual), this position could promise marriage. If, at the moment of birth, it was in the Fourth House, or if it

governs that house in the Solar Return, this position will bring a change in real estate affairs or in the family.

**Moon in the Eleventh House** indicates a change in plans and hopes. In masculine charts, it favors relationships with women (assuming it is unafflicted).

**Moon in the Twelfth House** always brings danger of enmities which are difficult to assuage. Generally it signifies an unfavorable year for journeys, for beginning a business enterprise, or for projects relying on a good reputation or publicity. It also brings worries or problems caused by a woman.

In practice Mercury's role proves less important than that of the other planets; it seems to operate more according to house and aspects than by its position in a Solar Return House. Von Klöckler even believes that the conjunction of Mercury or Venus with the Sun has no significance other than to reinforce the annual house where it occurs.

**Mercury in the First House** appears to increase the mental vivacity, eloquence and ease of comprehension. It is a good position for students and for anyone whose life demands mental ability or commercial sense. This is the position in the Solar Return for the year of H.P. Blavatsky's death which, as I said earlier, was an especially productive year for literary work.

**Mercury in the Second House** influences income only in proportion to aspects received from other planets, although this position indicates that persons or things designated by this planet (trade, transactions, travel, journalists, intermediaries) will play a part in financial matters.

**Mercury in the Third House** brings business trips and favors relations based on common interests. <sup>4</sup>

**Mercury in the Fourth House** indicates differences of opinion in the family. If afflicted, especially by Mars and Uranus, this position threatens domestic or family disputes.

**Mercury in the Fifth House** indicates that all the native's affections will be controlled and analysed by reason during the

year. This position favors intellectual pleasures over sensual ones, and is benefic for students and for technical instruction in general, if Mercury is not too badly afflicted.

**Mercury in the Sixth House**, afflicted, indicates overwork which may cause headaches, especially if it is in Aries, or if this annual house falls in the natal First. Afflictions to Mercury in this position make mental effort very painful.

**Mercury in the Seventh House** generally indicates a spouse or partner who is too self-centered; if afflicted, it indicates misunderstandings with such a person. Very often this position indicates a proposal of a social or collective nature (in a girl's chart, Mercury in the Seventh almost always indicates an offer of marriage).

**Mercury in the Eighth House** concerns either a change in financial investments or travel because of a death.

**Mercury in the Ninth House** seems to be favorable from the mental point of view: I have seen this position in the most productive years of a number of journalists and men of science. It almost always indicates business trips (as it does in the Solar Return we drew up in the first chapter).

**Mercury in the Tenth House** reveals the native's professional acumen during the year to come, and consequently his fame and reputation; afflicted by Mars, Uranus or Pluto, Mercury provokes hasty acts or judgments. Note this position of Mercury in H. P. Blavatsky's Solar Return preceding the foundation of the Theosophical Society. In this annual chart, the Tenth House is especially important, with Venus, Uranus, and the Sun along with Mercury.

**Mercury in the Eleventh House** is either favorable or unfavorable for an increasing circle of relationships during the year. If Mercury is linked by benefic aspect or by rulership to the Second, Eighth or Tenth House, friendships will be advantageous and will benefit the native in some way (in the charts of businessmen or professional people, this position seems to indicate increase of clientele).

Opposition from a planet in the Fifth generally indicates disappointments or worries from children.

**Mercury in the Twelfth House** is more favorable for abstract work than for the practical side of life. In Virgo or well aspected, it appears to be connected with secret schemes or production arrangements which are kept secret.

The role of Venus in the Solar Return is very important for intimate personal happiness, especially in masculine charts. To whatever house it occupies, it brings its sweet and attractive influence, as pleasant as a young girl's smile (except in Scorpio where it creates jealousy).

**Venus in the First House** seems to have a psychological influence similar to Jupiter, i.e., it increases optimism and sociability. If it is not unfavorably aspected, it indicates an easy year and favors worldly success.

**Venus in the Second House** favors finances and increases luck in business especially in Taurus, Libra and Pisces, or if well aspected. If afflicted by Mars, Jupiter or Uranus, it brings danger of extravagance in expenditures and disorder in financial affairs.

**Venus in the Third House** favors relations with the native's associates. It appears to be especially important in Solar Returns of people involved with imaginative literature and the arts.

**Venus in the Fourth House** generally brings beautification of the home. This position promises help from parents, and is also favorable for anyone whose profession is connected with this house (farmers, landlords, mines, etc.).

**Venus in the Fifth House** reanimates sensuality and favors love life, especially for men. If linked with money houses, it promises success in gambling or speculation, or brings a win at the lottery. Frequently seen in years of the birth of children.

Venus occupied this position in the Solar Return preceding H. P. Blavatsky's marriage, and announced her future betrothal

by its presence in Libra (original sign of marriage).

**Venus in the Sixth House**, unafflicted, protects the health, work and relations with domestics or subordinates. Badly aspected by Mars and Uranus, there is danger of diseases of the genital organs or nearby organs.

**Venus in the Seventh House** is a good indication for conjugal happiness. I have frequently observed this position in Solar Returns of marriage and partnership. However, if it is retrograde at the time of the Solar Return (as is true with the retrogradation of any planet) the marriage will not take place during the coming year—or if Venus is very well aspected, it will take place later than the native wishes.

**Venus in the Eighth House** favors trials and financial investments (unless it is in Scorpio).

**Venus in the Ninth House** promises pleasure trips, or a desire for them.

**Venus in the Tenth House** without unfavorable aspects, favors all the significations of that House: reputation, business, social position, etc. Afflicted by Saturn and Mars, Uranus or Neptune, it denotes a danger of a scandal—generally one resulting from the complications of a love affair.

**Venus in the Eleventh House** promotes worldly success and achievement of desires and hopes. It frequently seems to indicate friendship with a young woman, or a somehow flattering or profitable feminine friendship, since above all it promises satisfaction from friends and relations. It is an indication of support and encouragement from a woman, or obtained through the sympathies of a woman.

**Venus in the Twelfth House** refers to hidden feelings and desires. If it is well placed and aspected, it protects the native from the unfavorable side of this most unfortunate house of the horoscope. In Aries and Scorpio, or with a Mars aspect, it indicates unsatisfied and hence increased sensuality. As does every planet in the Twelfth House, Venus in this position contradicts its promises in the natal chart: if Venus was in the Second at

birth, the finances will suffer; in the Third, relations with those around the native will be less favorable, etc.

The effects of Mars are rapid and often are a result of overly violent reactions and feelings like anger and desire. In feminine charts, it is the principal indicator of the lover.

**Mars in the First House** produces a recrudescence of activity, initiative, and ambition during the year since this configuration is one of dynamism and energy, which should be emphasized in the interpretation. If it is afflicted it will also bring an increase in irritability, over-excitedness, even instances of brutality. The native, with his careless words or acts, is in danger of provoking conflicts and disputes with people indicated by the house Mars governs or the house occupied by the planet afflicting Mars. This position also seems to activate the sexual instinct, especially if Mars is linked with Venus. In aspect with Neptune, it indicates a useless expenditure of energy for an illusory purpose or for a project incapable of providing what is hoped for.

**Mars in the Second House** brings imprudence in business or exaggerated expenses which are often beyond the native's means. If it is badly aspected, problems and difficulties with money are inevitable.

**Mars in the Third House** always indicates danger of bad news or carelessness in speech or writing which causes discord in the native's circle. If Mars receives a malefic aspect, care is required in travel (especially by car). In Air or Fire signs it is a sign of great intellectual activity (example: Solar Return for founding of the Theosophical Society).

**Mars in the Fourth House** generally does not indicate a home in harmony with the aspirations and tastes of the native; it also brings arguments and clashes with parents, occasionally even strife over a vital matter. If it is afflicted and connected with the vital points of the chart, this position indicates digestive troubles, or a stomach or intestinal illness (in women sometimes

the reproductive organs are affected). In a very unfavorable Solar Return, and where Mars is linked with a great number of planets, it corresponds to a misfortune striking the parents, property or the home (fire, death, discord in the family, public disaster, etc.).

**Mars in the Fifth House** is an indication that gambling and stock market speculation should be avoided, unless the planet receives benefic aspects. With disharmonious configurations, this position is clearly unfavorable for relations with the opposite sex; it seems especially unfavorable in feminine charts, where it almost always brings some misbehavior on the part of a man—especially if Mars is strong in the chart.

**Mars in the Sixth House**, possibility of an accident. In Capricorn, however, it will be a sign of good health (presupposing that Mars is unafflicted and the superimpositions of the houses are not unfavorable). Even if dignified, this position is dangerous in the charts of employees since it increases the desire for independence, which might cause them to undertake projects beyond their powers, or cause other problems.

**Mars in the Seventh House** promises differences of opinion and arguments with spouse or partners and indicates a danger of quarrels and legal actions. On the other hand this position of Mars, especially if in conjunction with the Seventh House cusp, predisposes the native to risks and occasionally even to violent action of a social nature, but it cannot succeed unless Mars is well aspected.

**Mars in the Eighth House** can cause some extravagances on the part of the spouse or partner, and it frequently indicates a considerable increase in expenses, or even living beyond one's means. This does not seem to be a good position for legal action. If Mars rules the Eleventh, Third, or Fourth House, it could indicate a death of someone in the native's social group.

**Mars in the Ninth House** makes journeys dangerous and especially tends to bring automobile accidents. From the psychological aspect, this position predisposes the native to doubt and scepticism, or conversely to spontaneous conversions,

rapid changes of opinion and quick ideological stands that are more instinctive than thought out.

**Mars in the Tenth House** indicates professional annoyances and difficulties. (This is Mars's position in the chart we cast in the first chapter.) If Mars is very afflicted, it is an indication of misfortune or danger of disgrace. Psychologically this position predisposes to risks and even dangerous actions (especially in Fire signs) or to a certain carelessness in business matters.

**Mars in the Eleventh House** generally indicates broad plans that exceed the native's capabilities and differences of opinion with friends. If it is unfavorably aspected, arguments, annoyances and quarrels are inevitable and there is a good possibility that not just circumstances, but friends, too, will oppose the realization of the native's hopes.

**Mars in the Twelfth House** is the worst position for this planet because it indicates illness and accidents, or enmities, persecution, annoyances, or snares of all kinds. Afflicted and in a water sign, it appears to be connected with sexual excesses, immoral or even criminal tendencies.

Jupiter plays the role of the Greater Benefic in the Solar Return, just as it does in the natal chart. If it was weak at the moment of birth—in Gemini, Virgo, or Capricorn—and if it is strong in the Solar Return and in unfavorable aspect to its natal position, its benefic influence is increased. It never fails to bring some good fortune or happiness to the annual house it occupies.

**Jupiter in the First House** increases optimism and generosity, and creates a need for expansion in enterprises or in areas indicated by the natal house on which it is superimposed. If it is not too afflicted, the year will be favorable for the native, or at least relatively easy. This is the position in H. P. Blavatsky's Solar Return corresponding to the founding of the Theosophical Society.



**Jupiter in the Second House** increases income and expenses, and brings good fortune to everything involving money. We find this position of Jupiter in H. P. Blavatsky's Solar Return for 1847, when her situation improved suddenly with marriage. Since Jupiter governs the Seventh House in this chart, it clearly indicates by rulership where this improvement comes from.

If Jupiter is retrograde, this does not prevent the expansion of the financial situation, but profits will not be realized; and it indicates that this expansion does not satisfy the native.

**Jupiter in the Third House** is especially important in the charts of editors, writers, and all those whose profession is concerned with this house, because it will bring profitable contracts, interesting propositions, or something good from the native's circle of acquaintances and relatives. A good aspect from Uranus and Neptune (and perhaps Pluto) frequently indicates that the native will escape an accident as if by miracle. It could be called a sign of providential protection.

**Jupiter in the Fourth House** not only favors everything connected with that house, but, unless it is too afflicted, it generally indicates that the end of the year will be better than the beginning. Very often this position of Jupiter promises a good event during the last third of the year that starts with the birthday.

**Jupiter in the Fifth House**, in its own sign, indicates a good year for the progress of enterprises in which the native shows a great deal of optimism and measured daring, as well as for healthy emotional satisfactions. Afflicted, debilitated, or peregrine (without essential or accidental dignity), it increases the tendency to risk—which could invite losses in hazardous enterprises or some misunderstandings in love relationships.

**Jupiter in the Sixth House** indicates a good year for relations with subordinates, or if the native is an employee, easy work. Afflicted, this planet is a warning that the blood must be purified and the excesses to which this position is prey must be avoided. If it rules the First or the Fifth, it indicates danger of health disorders as a result of the abuse of pleasures or diversions.

**Jupiter in the Seventh House**, strong and well aspected, shows conjugal happiness (or if the natal chart does not indicate this—a year of calm married life), a good relations with partners or success in legal actions. Afflicted it demands greater reserve; I have observed abuses of the native's confidence many times with this position.

Jupiter is on the cusp of the Seventh in the Solar Return we drew up in the first chapter. It is exceptionally dignified since it is in Sagittarius which is its own sign, and it designates a person with whom the native shares some business and who could be described as a partner. The squares of Saturn and Neptune caused some misunderstandings and differences of opinion during the year, but since Jupiter is stronger than the other two planets, this partnership is clearly favorable, as also indicated by the superimposition of the Seventh House on the Second. Since Jupiter rules the Eleventh House of this Return, this person is as much a true friend as a partner. Lastly, the sextile from Jupiter to Mercury in the house of journeys corresponds to two business trips made with this person.

**Jupiter in the Eighth House** favors legal proceedings and generally promises gifts or appreciable financial co-operation. Afflicted, it tends to increase debts or to bring some sort of annoyances in that area.

**Jupiter in the Ninth House** increases the reputation, general respect and breadth of mind, and favors everything connected with this house (journeys, advanced philosophic, scientific or ethical studies, relations with foreign countries, etc.).

If Jupiter is afflicted, the native should pay special attention to his credit and to all financial obligations.

**Jupiter in the Tenth House** is frequently seen in years of fortunate events that bring improvement of the career or advancement in life, and this position always marks a good year for business, if it is not too unfavorably aspected. Very afflicted, it most frequently indicates difficulties and conflicts due to carelessness, or to schemes of too great scope, and plans which

are too vast. According to Jean-G. Verdier (*Ce que Disent les Astres*, p. 179) for housewives this position often indicates birth or pregnancy, especially if Jupiter is superimposed on the natal Ascendant.

**Jupiter in the Eleventh House** indicates a need for material, social, or worldly expansion—depending on the overall chart. This position always seems to be good for relationships and friendships but if Jupiter is very unfavorably aspected, they will not provide what the native expects of them, and if they give help it will be out of calculation and selfishness, not from any tenderness.

**Jupiter in the Twelfth House** helps discover and avoid the machinations of secret enemies and detractors. If dignified, it favors advancement in secret societies. Afflicted, it indicates a chronic malaise, generally not very painful, connected with circulation of the blood or with the liver.

Saturn always casts a shadow on the area of the life indicated by the house in the Solar Return it occupies. It represents the Greater Malefic—as in the natal chart—and its aspects, the house it governs, and its relations with the planets of the natal chart must be examined with the greatest care. Most frequently it will not indicate an event that influences the native's life at sometime during the year, as the other planets generally seem to do, but something that oppresses the native during the whole year. Its influence appears to be static rather than dynamic; at least the static element takes precedence over dynamic and temporary action. An example will enable us to better grasp this aspect of the Saturnian influence. In the chart we drew at the beginning of this book, Saturn, by its presence in the Tenth House, indicates the death of the mother for whom the native had boundless love, a completely extraordinary filial affection carried almost to paroxysm. The four months preceding her death on May 22, 1936, 10:00 p.m., were marked by anguish and constant anxiety to the point where the native

frequently neglected his work (this should be attributed to the opposition of Saturn and Neptune). After her death, he needed several months to regain control of himself, so greatly did his grief increase the void caused by her disappearance. This is characteristic of the slowness and breadth of Saturn's effect.

**Saturn in the First House** always makes the native worried, depressed, overworked and continually behind in his work, frequently because of his health which shows a tendency to weakness (this is the position in the Solar Return that corresponds to Blavatsky's death). This position of Saturn, even if dignified and well-aspected, seems to demand effort beyond the native's strength and frequently indicates a person physically and emotionally exhausted. It frequently indicates a year of struggle—success or failure depending on the overall Solar Return.

**Saturn in the Second House** promises money fears or worries, since this position slows business, causes delays in returns and creates difficulties in financial plans. It is a bad year to engage in real estate deals. Afflicted Saturn promises heavy losses.

**Saturn in the Third House** tends to pessimism and promises tense relations, difficulties with the circle of acquaintances—most frequently with those older than the native, or delays in traveling and other things governed by this house. Its afflictions appear to be especially unfavorable in the charts of students, writers and editors. If Saturn afflicts the Ascendant (natal or annual) and at the same time repeats the unfavorable aspects with the luminaries in the birth chart there is a danger of pulmonary tuberculosis or another lung disease.

**Saturn in the Fourth House** indicates responsibilities and worries involving real estate, home, parents or inheritances. If it is afflicted or retrograde, it creates a suffocating atmosphere in the family or great annoyances.<sup>4</sup> Very often it indicates an in-

<sup>4</sup>Paul Rigel ("Astrologie," #, 1937, p. 9) says that Saturn Retrograde, ruling the Midheaven, in the Eighth House of the Solar Return, also brings trouble from parents and inheritances.

crease in difficulties at the end of the year. As an historical example of this configuration, we have Mussolini's Solar Return for July 29, 1942, which corresponds to the year of his fall, which came on July 25, 1943.

**Saturn in the Fifth House** most frequently indicates a person who is unsatisfied emotionally; its influence is stronger in feminine charts than in masculine ones because for men it most often decreases physical drives and emotional inclination, while for a woman instead of restraining them it inhibits their satisfaction. It is a bad position for gambling and speculation, even if well aspected. These indications often seem to be nullified if Saturn governs an annual Ascendant in Capricorn. In this case it will accentuate the areas ruled by the Fifth House and should be interpreted according to the overall chart.

**Saturn in the Sixth House** indicates failing health due to illness or to more or less constant worry. It will be a long and arduous process to improve the condition of the organism, unless Saturn is in Libra, Capricorn or Aquarius, which increases the resistance. For employees, it often brings a distaste for their work.

**Saturn in the Seventh House** indicates lack of understanding with the spouse or partner. If the native is planning on marriage during the year to come, it will take place later than he hopes; if Saturn is retrograde and afflicted, it will not take place at all.<sup>5</sup> It is also an unfavorable position for legal actions, which will not be concluded during the year governed by the Solar Return.

**Saturn in the Eighth House** frequently indicates years when there is fear of death. Most frequently this configuration indicates debts which cause anxiety, and the lowering of revenues or stock values. It generally indicates a bad year for speculation, buying of bonds, stocks or annuities.

<sup>5</sup>Note that the retrogradations and afflictions of Saturn, ruling the Seventh House of the Solar Return but not located there, in no way prevent the marriage, but make it unfortunate, disappointing and often of short duration.

**Saturn in the Ninth House** dignified, favors good judgment and tends to make philosophic concepts more profound. Afflicted, it is unfavorable for journeys, in which it causes delays or obstacles. Very often in this position it indicates trouble from brothers or sisters-in-law.

**Saturn in the Tenth House** hinders promotion: well aspected and dignified it indicates a stabilized position but one not without worry. Afflicted, it causes trouble in business, the necessity for overcoming many difficulties in order to stay at the same level, and the danger of heavy losses. Very often it brings an unfortunate event in the career or one which has repercussions on the native's status (as in the Solar Return for January 1936, which we discussed earlier). Furthermore, this position often indicates an illness for the mother.

**Saturn in the Eleventh House** indicates delays in the realization of plans and hopes due to all kinds of obstacles. It is also an indication of worry over relationships and sometimes of a retired or solitary existence, since this position tends to narrow the circle of friends or retard the development of friendship.

**Saturn in the Twelfth House** generally indicates that health conditions demand either complete rest or systematic treatment. The many cases I have observed seem to show that an illness that appears under this position will not pass without leaving deep marks; either it becomes more or less chronic or the native feels the consequences of it all his life. Sometimes with a very afflicted Solar Return, this position of Saturn announces some fatality.

The effects of Uranus in the Solar Return are manifested by a sudden event of short duration rather than by general tendencies or an atmosphere the native experiences throughout the year.

**Uranus in the First House** indicates that something unexpected will reappear in the life of the native. If it is afflicted and in conjunction with the Ascendant, it indicates danger of an ac-

cident caused by the native. If, in the natal chart, Uranus was in a personal house (I, III, IX), or if it ruled the Ascendant, the planet will bring new interests, love of a branch of learning just discovered—for example, occultism—of which the native was hitherto completely unaware or an inspiration or new project that orients the mind permanently in a new direction.

**Uranus in the Second House** indicates unexpected gains or losses and is a sign of financial fluctuations much stronger than those indicated by the Moon in this house. Very often Uranus, the planet of surprises and contrasts, indicates a sudden change which is very important to the financial situation or financial instability throughout the whole year. Unfavorable aspects inhibit the possibility of secure investments.

**Uranus in the Third House** indicates the possibility of problems in arranging contracts, writing, ordering accounts or in travel. Well aspected, this position encourages study of sciences (governed by this planet—astrology, occultism in general, archeology, ancient history, physical sciences, electricity, etc.) and could even lead to original discovery. Afflicted, it may always indicate some complications with neighbors.

**Uranus in the Fourth House** causes sudden and unexpected changes in domestic life and inclines to change of residence; occasionally there will be clashes with parents (most probably the father) or an important event involving them. (I have often observed this position of Uranus in the years of the death of parents or the separation of the native from them).

**Uranus in the Fifth House** exalts sexual tendencies and indicates, especially in masculine charts, transient love affairs, liaisons suddenly made or broken, changes in the love life. If it is afflicted and retrograde, it often indicates problems due to an old liaison. In feminine charts, this position seems to be especially connected with irregularities of the menstrual period, unexpected or unwanted pregnancy, miscarriages and the complications in love relationships which frequently result. Dignified and well aspected, it promises unexpected gains and success in speculations or gambling (sometimes appreciable gifts). But if it

receives even one malefic aspect, it brings bad luck. For children it refers to their school life.

**Uranus in the Sixth House** indicates malaises or complex illnesses which are rather rare and hard to diagnose—even more so because Uranus often brings errors in diagnosis or treatment. If Uranus is well aspected, these illnesses can be easily cured by Uranian methods (electricity, massage, magnetism, and any more or less ultramodern and unorthodox methods). This position almost always causes some complications between employees and management.

**Uranus in the Seventh House** always indicates danger of some sudden complications caused by the spouse or partner, or occurring in the social life, with lasting repercussions on the course of the native's destiny. If very afflicted, there is a danger of a break or a separation. If the native is involved in a trial, the end will be more or less unexpected; this conclusion could be favorable or not, depending on the aspects of the overall chart.

**Uranus in the Eighth House**, afflicted, sometimes indicates unexpected news of death, complications in investments and the absolute impossibility of the native regaining possession of some of his property.

**Uranus in the Ninth House** frequently causes a change of opinion, often indicates journeys, especially by air (these are dangerous if it is afflicted) and announces a change in the family of the spouse or partner. Unfavorably aspected, it seems to be connected with disturbances from in-laws.

**Uranus in the Tenth House** announces unexpected changes in career or professional work. Sometimes, this position of Uranus causes changes of profession, but more often it indicates the repercussions on the native's career of collective events—even national or international ones, outside of the native's control. Psychologically, it indicates a tendency to changes and variations in things involving the profession, with an exaltation of the intuitive qualities. Frequently it indicates a kind of balancing in the native's plans between decisions to be made and considerations of future intentions. There is a need to

grasp opportunities and solutions almost extempore, without long reflection, or perhaps independently of such reflection. Well aspected, there is the probability of success happening in a highly unusual manner. Afflicted, it is an indication of the danger of a psychological or physical crisis (or even death) for the native's mother.

**Uranus in the Eleventh House** always brings a change in the native's plans and in his relationships or friendships; sometimes this change of plans depends on new acquaintances which will be important for one reason or another. Afflicted, it indicates complicated misunderstandings involving friends and it demands a great deal of prudence with new acquaintances. If the native is sick, it would be wise to change doctors.

**Uranus in the Twelfth House** indicates trouble and complications, most frequently according to the house it governs. (In the Solar Return in the first chapter, this position is partly responsible for the occupational troubles since Uranus rules the Midheaven.) This configuration also brings the most unexpected strife and quarrels, most frequently caused by enemies, rivals, intrigues and conspiracies. Obviously the seriousness of these troubles depends on the overall chart.

If Uranus is sudden and frequently brutal, Neptune deceives in a hazy, murky, insipid manner and operates more internally, on the psychic level than externally. It imprints whatever part of the Solar Return it occupies with this character.

**Neptune in the First House** always indicates some illusions nourished by the native or plans which will be difficult to carry out. The house ruled by this planet in the natal and annual charts, or the one it occupied at birth, will define the area with which these illusions or hopes are connected, and unfavorable aspects refer to the disappointments that result. This almost always indicates an intense interior life—and if afflicted, anxieties and fears which are more or less concealed.

**Neptune in the Second House** creates illusions about income. The native's expectations will be denied. It is a sign of instability or insecurity in finances. If very afflicted, this planet brings losses through dishonesty (by swindling, abuse of trust or fraud rather than by violent open theft).

**Neptune in the Third House** is a warning to be wary of women in the native's circle, because with unfavorable aspects accentuating this threat, it could create all kinds of problems through bad publicity or deceit. From the intellectual point of view, this position of Neptune does not favor precise studies or work. If we take the Third House in the sense of correspondence and travel, this position brings danger of a lost or misdirected letter, or some deceptions involving travel (unless Neptune is well aspected).

**Neptune in the Fourth House** indicates either instability in the family with the worry and fears that accompany it, or plans involving the home, family or real estate which will not be carried out according to expectations. If Neptune is afflicted, the native should expect the most unlikely complications including burglary of his apartment or betrayal by a woman.

**Neptune in the Fifth House** generally indicates fears and worries about children, a love life that operates more on the interior plane than on the physical and disappointing speculation (unless Neptune receives not one malefic aspect). There is also danger of disappointment in love.

**Neptune in the Sixth House** indicates a diet inappropriate to the native's nature (danger of poisoning), or illnesses whose origin is more psychic and nervous than physical. Very afflicted, this position tends to bring disorder or complications at work and indicates dishonesty or dangerous incompetence in subordinates.

**Neptune in the Seventh House** brings little harmony to married life and, if afflicted, there is danger of deceit or betrayal by the spouse or by persons who are considered partners in some way. We find this position of Neptune in H. P. Blavatsky's Solar Return corresponding to the creation of the Theosophical Soci-

ety; the history of the separation of some of the founding members is too well known—even outside of the Society—to need repeating, a separation which clearly turned out to be a betrayal, since it was immediately followed by a bitter campaign directed against the author of *Isis Unveiled*.

**Neptune in the Eighth House** indicates danger of swindling or some murky dealings in financial affairs often through the fault of the spouse or partner.

**Neptune in the Ninth House** indicates journeys by water (or to water, e.g., a stay at a spa or seashore), or the increase of mystical tendencies. Very afflicted, it inclines to legal complications, worry, credulity and to deep anxieties that the native takes to be premonitions. There is a danger of drowning.

**Neptune in the Tenth House** indicates an unstable career that could improve by force of circumstances if the chart is favorable but which is more often subject to danger of collapse. This position of Neptune will bring scandal if afflicted.

**Neptune in the Eleventh House** generally indicates friends who cannot be counted on, unless it is very well aspected. Unfavorably aspected, it promises deception from relationships, sometimes a quarrel because of a third person, and it indicates that the hopes and plans of the native will not be realized.

**Neptune in the Twelfth House** generally indicates some secrets or repressions during the year. This position tends to weaken the health from within through worries, fears and nervous depressions. If it is very well influenced, it is favorable for everything involving spiritualism or psychic studies.

It is not yet possible to establish precisely all the influences of Pluto in the Solar Return, but its action is becoming more and more well known,<sup>6</sup> and by now we can give a fair account of the role it plays.

<sup>6</sup>On this subject, see our articles in "Almanach Chacornac," 1933; "Le Grand Nostradamus," #13, December 20, 1935; "Le Chariot," #76 October, 1936; and

**Pluto in the First House**, in the natal chart, produces a character reserved at some times and open at others. In the Solar Return, this configuration could be characterized as the turning point in the life, manifested by the desire to seek out a path. A renewal of activity is often seen with this position.

**Pluto in the Second House** seems to be favorable for earnings but tends to exaggerate financial possibilities and create surprises of all kinds in dealings. It is a promise of new possibilities.

**Pluto in the Third House** emphasizes the importance of involvements or brings a change in them or among those close to the native. The mind is more practical and more easily finds solutions to problems in daily life. In unfavorable aspect with Mars or the Sun, it indicates (moral or material) obligations which are not upheld, and it seems to indicate a revolt against them.

**Pluto in the Fourth House** indicates misunderstandings with the family. The native may have a tendency to shut himself off, live alone in isolation not revealing his thoughts, ambitions or preoccupations to anyone. It is also a sign of new projects involving the home.

**Pluto in the Fifth House** seems to bring a feeling of uncertainty or a change in the love life. It does not, however, inhibit emotional satisfactions or hazardous means of income, but it creates unusual circumstances which remove all stability. (It appears more romantic than Uranus and inclines to adultery and bigamy as much as Neptune, but it does not bring the scandals common to the latter planet. Pluto threatens, but it does not cause real havoc unless heavily afflicted). It also frequently indicates unexpected (though not necessarily bad) events from children.

**Pluto in the Sixth House** frequently appears to indicate exaggerated fears about health, because it seems to me to be more

"Astrologie," 1937, Book #5; also the chapter devoted to this planet in *Soyez Vous-Même Votre Astrologue*, Paris, 1940; and the articles in "Les Cahiers Astrologiques," #55-56, 57, 58, 59, 70, 80, 93, 95, and 103.

connected with mental, psychological and nervous ills than with physical ones. In the Solar Return of a sick person, this position of Pluto indicates an unusual form of a known disease or a rare disease. With favorable aspects, it promises spectacular recovery of health.

**Pluto in the Seventh House** indicates sudden and unexpected reunions in the social life or, if very afflicted— unforeseen and disquieting complications, apparently not of long duration or a very disagreeable trial to look forward to, which is in no way under the native's control. Generally these complications will work out best by themselves.

**Pluto in the Eighth House** shows a vain or exaggerated hope of increasing a fortune. It is also an indication of worries about the liquidation of some debts. With other good financial signs, it frequently indicates a reordering of conditions or heavy financial returns not dependent on the native's control. Sometimes it indicates useless fear for the life of a relative.

**Pluto in the Ninth House** appears to favor all intellectual effort and indicates a desire for travel, which often seems to be the way to escape an existence which does not satisfy the native. Often this position of Pluto corresponds to long journeys.

**Pluto in the Tenth House** inclines to great activity, generally slightly disorganized (if there is a malefic aspect to Pluto), exerted in many areas. This position seems to increase ambition.

**Pluto in the Eleventh House** indicates that the realization of plans depends not only on individual efforts, but also on the co-operation of fortunate circumstances.

**Pluto in the Twelfth House** appears to indicate that hidden plans or worries preoccupy the native a great deal.

If Pluto falls within  $5^\circ$  of the annual or natal Ascendant or Midheaven (which, of course, belongs to the realm of transits), its role in the annual and natal chart must be examined very carefully because these passages turn out to be very important causing profound changes in the life. Many times I have seen

that Pluto on the natal Ascendant increases activity and orients it in a new direction, while at the Midheaven it brings a very sudden change in the career. Since it often brings exaggerated hopes and its character is still very mysterious, only the Solar Returns for the years of these transits enable one to determine the direction and the depth of these changes.

It must not be assumed that the planets in the houses have no other interpretations than those we have just given in this catalogue. The Solar Return, like every horoscopic chart, is a complete organic whole and even if a list of the most common meanings of each astrological factor could be made, it would be impossible to make an *a priori* evaluation of all the possible distributions of the planets that govern isolated indications since the synthesis is always beyond the reach of analytical minutiae. But the positions of the planets in the annual houses are still subordinate in importance to the superimposition of the houses, and in an interpretation, the order given in this book should always be followed:

a. First determine the tonality of the year according to the natal house in which the Ascendant falls, paying attention also to the sign of the zodiac. In making this first determination, it is useful to examine simultaneously all the indications furnished by the ruler of the Ascendant and by the planets in the First House. If the ruler of the Ascendant has no significant aspects, it seems to have more influence on the psychic and psychological plane than in the concrete and practical domain of events (in most cases, there is a possibility of a philosophical, religious or ideological evolution, a marked process of interiorization);

b. Proceed to the analogous analysis of the orientation of the annual Midheaven in relation to the natal chart, taking into consideration all the planetary factors connected with this angle;

c. In the same way examine the annual houses superimposed on the Ascendant and Midheaven of the natal chart, and also all the houses in the Solar Return which are made significant by an agglomeration of planets; just as in the natal chart, the concentration of planets in a house of the Solar Return em-

phasizes the importance of that house. The presence of many planets in the First House indicates a broad field of personal activity or an intense interior life; in the Second, a concentration emphasizes the importance of financial matters; in the Third and Ninth, it predisposes to travel, and so forth;

d. Finally examine all the other superimpositions of the houses, and the indications furnished by the presence of planets in houses. However, the more angular planets there are in the Solar Return, the more important the Return is likely to be.

## CHAPTER 8

### THE ASPECTS IN SOLAR RETURNS

The orbs for aspects in a Solar Return appear to be smaller than those in a natal chart. I allow only  $8^{\circ}$  to the luminaries in the case of an applying conjunction or opposition, and  $6^{\circ}$  to the other planets. The closer an aspect is, the more tangible and evident are its effects. A separating aspect generally indicates something that happened before the date of the Return, which can therefore produce only the afterimage of its occurrence during the coming year.

The aspects should be judged according to the overall annual chart. Their meanings are visibly analogous to those of the natal chart, but it seems that the major configurations also possess particular characteristics peculiar to the Solar Return. Earlier editions of this book indicated that the opposition of Mars and Uranus, if it occurred in financial houses (II, VIII), brought a theft or loss of money, in no way dependent on the native's actions. In the same way, unfavorable aspects of Uranus to the Ascendant denote accidents through electricity – and their seriousness will be in proportion to the planet's strength.

Let us try to describe some of these individual significations:

**Conjunction of the Sun and Moon:** always forms a nerve center in the annual chart. If this conjunction existed at the moment of birth, the event it indicates will completely modify the native's destiny; otherwise it will refer to a noteworthy event in the year. The nature of the zodiacal sign is always very strongly manifested: in Aries, this configuration brings struggles or the



desire to liberate oneself; in Taurus—tenacious efforts toward a determined goal; in Gemini—much vacillation and indecision due to the influence of those around the native; in Cancer, the native is absorbed in family worries; in Leo—boundless ambitions end in disappointment, etc. The house indicates the area where these fundamental tendencies will act with most force. In the Second, these struggles, efforts, vacillations, family worries, ambitions, etc., will especially affect finances; in the Third—relationships with relatives, neighbors or another Third House matter; in the Fourth—real estate or parents, etc. If the two luminaries were in trine at birth, this conjunction is not so unfavorable, but it is almost always connected with disagreeable events: for example, in the Seventh House, an ongoing trial, or a businessman seeking a partnership (when he dislikes the idea, but is forced into it to keep the business open); in the Eighth—sale of a property to which one is very attached; in the Ninth—expatriation, leaving behind some beloved relatives.

**Conjunction of the Sun and Mars** appears to be a configuration of violence and brutality either exercised (if at the annual Ascendant or Midheaven) or suffered. If these two planets were in unfavorable aspect in the natal chart, or if the conjunction is reinforced by an annual Ascendant in Scorpio, there could be an exchange of blows, brawls and wounds, but under this configuration there is always a crescendo of some very strong emotion (jealousy, hatred, anger, etc.) which ends in violence. The Solar Return which corresponds to so called “scenes of passion” very often indicate some “psychological abscess,” which is translated into open conflict. For this reason it is often seen in years of separations and divorces, as well as suicide attempts. In the Sixth and Twelfth Houses, this conjunction may represent surgical intervention.

**Conjunction of the Sun and Jupiter** indicates ambitions and appetite for gains, as well as sexual instinct. Afflicted by Mars, this configuration is dangerous for health (circulatory problems, abscesses, blood poisoning, phlegmons, etc.), and it tends to excesses. Its influence is clearly more fortunate in the Second, Tenth, Fourth and Eighth Houses than at the Ascend-

ant, where self-satisfaction is often accompanied by an unreasonable and completely temporary euphoria.

**Conjunction of the Sun and Saturn** indicates a year of moral and physical solitude and continual worries. In a woman's chart, since the Sun is the principal significator of the man there, this conjunction indicates worries and problems brought about by the husband, father or son, and often by separation from the son. Contrary to what would be expected, this conjunction does not affect the health unless it is in the Sixth or Twelfth House, or if one of these planets rules one of these two houses. However, it has a strong restrictive influence, preventing the native from being happy and delaying good things. This configuration has a fortunate effect only if the natal Ascendant was in Capricorn and if Saturn and the Sun in the birth chart have no unfavorable aspects with each other. In this case alone, this conjunction indicates advancement, improvement, a modification in the native's life or another development corresponding to his plans and ambitions, and has a long and fortunate influence on the shape of his destiny.

**Conjunction of Sun and Uranus** always promises a profound and sudden reversal in the life, according to the nature of the house where it occurs. If the Ascendant is in Leo, the native himself will bring this reversal, sometimes without being fully aware of it or without foreseeing all its consequences. If these two planets were in favorable aspect at the moment of birth and are well aspected in the Solar Return, their conjunction promises an unexpected and unforeseeable, but favorable development—for example, a fantastic and unanticipated opportunity due only to the fortunate cooperation of circumstances. Under other conditions this conjunction is unfavorable and its malefic character is clearly aggravated if the Sun in the natal chart was squaring or opposing Uranus, or if the conjunction is unfavorably aspected.

**Conjunction of Sun and Neptune** generally indicates a very hazy and ambiguous atmosphere, bringing regression in matters indicated by the house where it occurs. Most frequently the native lives in ambiguous conditions which cause fears or

under favorable aspects hopes, which will later meet with obstacles.

**Conjunction of Sun and Pluto** is betrayed mainly by tendencies in the native that are more practical and utilitarian than previously, and by a need for greater self-expenditure. Often it is an indication of success which surpasses all hopes.

**Conjunction of Moon and Mercury** is above all an indication of journeys and travel. It also clearly encourages verbal expression, and this indicates a year of advancement for a politician, success for a salesman and productive work for a journalist or author. Unfavorably aspected, it is a sign of a conflict between feelings and interests, which is also the principal signification of the opposition between these two planets. If the opposition occurs on the horizon, it indicates an antagonism between desire and the necessities of daily life; at the meridian, it predisposes to clashes between professional obligations and family life.

**Conjunction of the Moon and Venus** is a configuration which is at the same time lucky and lascivious - which leads to its being encountered in developments in the private life more frequently than in the professional life. In a woman's Solar Return, it indicates fertility and it is frequently seen in years of pregnancy and birth.

**Conjunction of Moon and Mars** promises excesses and recklessness of all kinds and creates a lack of adaptability in relationships with others, and if one of the two planets is ruler of the Ascendant, it may put the native in a position of being the cause of serious problems. This conjunction seems to be more damaging in feminine charts than in masculine ones.

**Conjunction of Moon and Jupiter** always seems to indicate an improvement of fortune, monetary returns, appreciable gifts and other material benefits. It indicates ease in things governed by the house in which it falls, as does the conjunction of the Moon and Venus.

**Conjunction of Moon and Saturn** indicates serious troubles from women (it has the same influence in masculine

charts as the conjunction of the Sun and Saturn in feminine charts).

**Conjunction of the Moon and Uranus** always promises an unforeseen development in events (indicated by house and sign) which modifies the native's whole existence. It is frequently seen in years of accidents and operations, and always brings journeys containing an element of surprise.

**Conjunction of the Moon and Neptune** shows a person who is more or less helpless and much more dependent on others than on himself; this configuration frequently corresponds to a web of circumstances that diminishes opportunities, will power, and even morality, and inclines to actions that may be regretted. If the two planets were in favorable aspect to each other in the natal chart, or if this conjunction is well situated in the Solar Return, it is the surest indication of journeys by water and of a new element in the love life.

**Conjunction of Moon and Pluto** is an indication of journeys bringing gratifications and new acquaintances, as well as sudden development in the area governed by the horoscopic house.

**Conjunction of Mercury and Venus** is especially important if it repeats the same conjunction in the birth chart, and occurs in a different sign than the one at birth. In the same sign, it merely accentuates the natal significations. This conjunction appears to concern particularly the native's relations with those around him. Although Mercury is never more than  $29^\circ$  from the Sun, and Venus never more than  $48^\circ$ , this conjunction is rarer than one would expect at first glance; sometimes it is encountered only five or six times in the whole life.

**Conjunction of Mercury and Mars** is essentially a configuration of errors, personal carelessness and problems caused by the native - even if one of these planets is well placed. The house will only channel this tendency into one area or another. In the Sixth House, it is an indication of wounds on the hands or

arms; in certain serious cases—wounds by the hand of man (it appears that surgical operations should be put in this last category).

**Opposition between these two planets** refers to conflicts, differences, lawsuits or debate, determined by the houses occupied or the rulerships.

**Conjunction of Mercury and Jupiter** increases professional skill and is connected with fortunate business initiatives. Sound judgment, more tolerant mind and an increased practical sense generally improve relations with those around the native and often result in an increase in earnings and an amicable solution to delicate questions.

**Conjunction of Mercury and Saturn** appears to decrease self-confidence, makes the native worry and makes him hesitate. This conjunction is better with an Ascendant in a Saturnian sign than in a Mercurial one.

**Conjunction of Mercury and Uranus** is essentially an indication of new interests, of thoughts oriented in an unexpected direction, and of projects taking the native out of the sphere in which he has lived. Connected with the Tenth House by rulership or location, it is a sign of a sudden new professional orientation or a change of occupation.

**Conjunction of Mercury and Neptune** indicates above all pursuit of the illusory and very exaggerated hopes, because it diminishes practical sense. But it could be very favorable for journeys and imaginative intellectual work, if in the Third and Ninth Houses; and it could indicate a platonic and disappointing affection, if angular or in the Second, Sixth or Twelfth.

**Conjunction of Mercury and Pluto** clearly favors everything involving mathematics, bookkeeping, studies, financial settlements and arrangements of all kinds, as well as individual creativity. This configuration seems to cause extension of individual capacities, and often material potentials in the direction indicated by its place in the Solar Return.

**Conjunction of Venus and Mars** always disturbs the love life. It seems that the conjunction is even worse than the opposi-

tion. Obviously this influence is more accentuated in the First, Third, Fifth and Eighth Houses, but it has this effect in any part of the annual chart. It seems to create a wave of sexuality which clouds the judgment and transforms the sex life into a painful problem. It is a particularly common configuration in years of adultery, because it evokes the possibility of a brief love adventure, one outside of friendships and ordinary relationships—this adventure could be a cause of disturbances which demand some temporary attention.

**Conjunction of Venus and Jupiter** is the surest sign of success and prosperity, when in money houses or in the Tenth, and in the personal houses—of happiness. This union of the two benefics is a promise of good fortune and an easy life: for workers, the improvement of general living conditions, and particularly pleasant vacations. It must not be expected that this conjunction will appear in every life—unfortunately there are some which never have it.

**Conjunction of Venus and Saturn** generally creates dissatisfaction in love and indicates a tense situation which goes on and on. This conjunction is favorable in Libra and to a lesser degree if the Ascendant is in a Saturnian sign.

**Conjunction of Venus and Uranus** is the surest sign of a tempest or turmoil in the love life. This configuration is especially dangerous if it is angular or in the Fifth House. Very often it indicates a bolt out of the blue. In the Seventh House it promises separation or at the very least a very serious and sudden upset of the conjugal life.

**Conjunction of Venus and Neptune** depends for the most part on the nature of the aspect between the planets in the natal chart: if there was a sextile or trine, it is excellent (giving happy inspirations, refinement, luck and success in anything undertaken); it is most damaging if it follows a natal square or opposition: betrayal, fraud, the disintegration of an affection or of a union, a nervous depression which may border on insanity, psychological or physical collapse, etc.

**Conjunction of Venus and Pluto** is an indication of a love adventure out of the ordinary, or of an intense emotional life. This configuration especially seems to increase personal charm, which promotes success. Frequently it indicates a liaison that flatters the native's vanity or is profitable.

**Conjunction of Mars and Jupiter** is above all an indication of a broad undertaking completely crowned with success, a magnificent stroke, an exploit or performance. It enables athletes to set records or to win. For everyone else, it indicates a risky, audacious, often decisive action, where the native is often unaware of the danger involved and of all the possible consequences. For soliders, it indicates promotion. Well aspected and angular, it always marks a great success, especially in the Tenth. Unfavorably aspected and situated, it promises clashes, conflicts, intense battles and legal proceedings.

**Conjunction of Mars and Saturn** is also an indication of a great effort, but sustained, long-lasting and often difficult. The luck inherent in the preceding conjunction is absent here, and only the overall Solar Return can determine the success or failure. In the Sixth or Twelfth, it will be the organism's reaction in fighting off illness. If one of these two planets rules the Ascendant, it is the native who imposes this sometimes meaningless and unproductive effort on himself. All sorts of troubles and difficulties derive from this conjunction of two malefics, but physical and psychological effort and will-power is always noticeable. Lastly, this conjunction frequently refers to dental extractions and operations on the bones.

**Opposition of Mars and Saturn** is traditionally one of the worst configurations, indicating a heavy burden of worry, depending on the houses and signs (in Aries and Libra—danger of a broken home or partnership; in Taurus and Scorpio—financial problems; in Gemini and Sagittarius—psychological crisis, in no way excluding difficulties with people around the native; in Cancer and Capricorn—danger of collapse of the career; in Leo and Aquarius—problems outside the family and the separation of friends; in Virgo and Pisces—crisis in health or work).

**Conjunction of Mars and Uranus** indicates an accident or a sudden occurrence: if one of these two planets is ruler of the Ascendant, or if the configuration is in the East, the event is provoked by the native; otherwise it may be beyond his control, breaking over him like a hurricane. Psychologically it is an indication of increased impulsiveness, inclinations in conflicting directions, and very frequently, a rather unstructured line of behavior.

**Conjunction of Mars and Neptune** especially indicates useless efforts and wasted energy. It is a configuration often encountered in years where an illusory and pointless project is pursued or where an effort is undertaken that will remain unfinished. It is also a sign of sudden annoying complications with those around the native, and if a project of a collective nature is undertaken, there may be serious danger of legal entanglements. Above all this conjunction is the sign of a "sword cutting through water," and it indicates the consequent disappointment, instead of the anticipated results—even though they seemed certain.

**Conjunction of Mars and Pluto** brings an increase of work and a frequently very unexpected increase in material means, which brings an improvement in the standard of living. Help from new friends seems characteristic for this configuration (especially in feminine charts).

**Conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn** brings stability to the things indicated by the house where it falls, which extends beyond the time covered by the Solar Return. If one of these two planets is ruler of the natal or annual Tenth House, it is an indication of a favorable consolidation in the career.

**Conjunction of Jupiter and Uranus** marks a new orientation in some area, most often in the career. For a person who had this conjunction at birth, its periodic return every fourteen years leaves the mark of great change, of events of major importance, in such a way that this cycle of change is clearly evident in the life. But in each instance, it is the Solar Return that determines the nature of these changes. For anyone else, the scope of these events depends solely on the place this conjunction

occupies in the annual chart; but a new orientation, a new impulse given by the concurrence of circumstances, influences the life not only during the year, but also during the years to come. For example, a change of residence occurring under this influence determines a whole new era of life. Very frequently this conjunction corresponds to an improvement in the life thanks to new inventions: for example, the purchase of a television set which makes a permanent change in the native's habits.

**Conjunction of Jupiter and Neptune** seems to indicate above all that the life will not unfold as the native hopes and anticipates. It is an indication of unexpected and generally chaotic developments in things governed by the house, beyond the native's control. Well aspected, this configuration promises a stroke of luck, which is, however, less durable or less fortunate than could reasonably be expected (for example, a win at the lottery which is too quickly spent).

**Conjunction of Jupiter and Pluto** increases the religious feeling and gives the inner conviction necessary to surmount present or future difficulties—a conviction which will prove itself. It is a configuration of resurrection or redressment.

The relationships between annual and natal planets are very important, but the principal emphasis must still be given to the configurations formed between the planets in the Solar Return. Of all the possible configurations between the annual planets and the natal planets, the superimpositions (conjunctions) are most striking in their effect. The return of three planets (or more) to their natal positions emphasizes the importance of the events which will take place in the course of the year.

The superimposition of an annual malefic on a natal malefic is always unfavorable. P. Christian says<sup>1</sup> that, according to Junctin de Florence, the conjunction of annual Saturn to natal

<sup>1</sup>*Histoire de la Magie*, p. 637, aph. 419.

Mars indicates a bad year, illness, persecutions, disorders, discord, domestic quarrels, accusations, enmity of powerful people and of those in high places; if it is in a Water sign—danger of drowning. In the chapter devoted to “Reflections and Aphorisms” later in the book, we will reproduce most of this data on the significations of the planetary superimpositions. But here we will observe that the superimposition of an unfavorably aspected Saturn on a natal planet always brings emotional or physical ordeals, whose nature can be divined from the combined significations of the annual and natal houses.

Conjunctions of annual and natal planets act according to the elementary nature of the planets involved, and according to the superimpositions of the houses they occupy. If Uranus is superimposed on Venus for example, some disturbances in the love life; and danger of sexual disorders can be predicted. This configuration will be especially dangerous in the Third, Fifth and Seventh Houses. If it is in the annual or natal Second House, these disturbances will cause financial complications. In the Sixth House, it will be an indication of diseases of the sexual organs. In the Tenth, this superimposition indicates danger of these disorders having repercussions on the reputation or the career.

But the superimpositions of the annual Ascendant or Midheaven on a natal planet will appear predominant in their influence, which is natural, since they are the principal factors of the Solar Return. Thus, the annual Ascendant on the natal Moon always corresponds to events in the family, events caused by travel or change in residence. The Ascendant on natal Neptune marks a more or less chaotic year, and rarely can the native resist the troublesome bonds of circumstances. Ascendant on the natal Mars, if it rules the Sixth or Twelfth House in a feminine chart, indicates cystitis, metritis, or a similar illness, etc.

Many times I have observed that when, in a Solar Return, the ruler of a natal house is in conjunction with the ruler of that same annual house (especially in the natal or annual Ascendant)

this house will be involved in the most important development of the year.

Let us look again at the chart drawn up in the first chapter: the only superimposition we find in this Solar Return is that of annual Neptune (16°36' Virgo) on natal Jupiter (14°11.5' Virgo). Since Jupiter is in the Eleventh House of associations, these are disturbed by this conjunction. The annual Fourth House which Neptune occupies indicates one of the causes of these confusions: family affairs which inhibit customary relationships with friends and acquaintances. Since the Eleventh House governs hopes, this superimposition indicates that the hopes of the native for the recovery (symbolized by Jupiter) of one of his parents (IV) will be disappointed (Neptune). This is also connected to the series of configurations announcing the death of the mother.

The special significance given to this superimposition by the houses does not prevent it from acting according to the nature of the two planets as well: in every instance the superimposition of Neptune on Jupiter will cause worry and doubt coming from a decrease in optimism and in the sense of the practical.

In examining a superimposition, it is wise to note the annual position of the natal planet which is excited by this superimposition. Often this confirms or defines the events or conditions revealed by this configuration.

A change in the strength of a planet's influence compared to its position in the natal chart, also has an important influence. If the ruler of the natal Second House was unfavorably placed at birth, and is in its own sign in the Solar Return, it is already a good indication for income. The opposition of a dignified planet (e.g., Mars in Aries) to its natal position does not seem to constitute an unfavorable omen; if it is well aspected, it will contravene the natal influence. If the planet which occupied the Sixth House at birth is in its own sign or the sign of its exaltation in the Return, it tends to strengthen the health, but if it moves to signs of its fall or debility, it tends to release the morbid inclinations indicated by its natal position.

The return of a planet to its natal place accentuates its influence during the year to come. P. Christian says, in aphorism #569 of *Histoire de la Magie*: "when a planet in a Return reoccupies the sign it was in at birth, it reassumes the favorable or unfavorable prophetic signification, according to the nature of the sign, which it had in the birth chart, bearing in mind the new aspects which may appear."

These observations seem to be connected with a general law according to which the planets of the Solar Return correct or aggravate the natal indications. This law explains why we often see a partial reconstruction of the natal chart during important years. For example, the Solar Return of Blavatsky's death has the Saturn-Mercury conjunction at the same place (within 3°) as in the natal chart, while the natal conjunction of these two planets with Mars is replaced by a square in the Solar Return.

This law of the annual planet's effect on their original influence explains why the unfavorable aspects between two powerful planets in an annual chart lose much of their danger if these planets were in favorable aspect in the natal chart.

In Blavatsky's natal chart, the conjunction of Mars and Saturn in the Third House forms a real nerve center indicating strife and all sorts of unpleasantness from those around the native, as well as polemics and violent criticism; and her biography shows that frequently these difficulties and problems seemed insurmountable. In the Solar Return of August 11, 1875, Mars again occupied the Third House but in sextile to Saturn: this year was still not free of strife, but this favorable aspect corrected the effects of the natal conjunction, and promised triumph over all the unpleasantness and accusations of her adversaries during this year.

In his chapter devoted to the significations of the return of annual planets to their natal places, Junctin de Florence states that the combination of an annual planet with one in the birth chart concerns an event, the cause of which is previous to the birthday, while the configurations of the Solar Return unrelated to those in the natal chart, indicate an event proceeding from a

future cause. This remark is being verified, but it still needs to be more clearly defined.

Some authors, and especially von Klöckler,<sup>2</sup> attribute a predominant role to the repetition of the natal aspects in the annual chart. Without denying the validity and the power of this configuration, I nevertheless want to warn my readers against this exaggerated tendency, which I myself pursued for many years. A Solar Return may repeat ten favorable aspects from the natal chart and not one unfavorable one; in practice, this proves to be insufficient grounds for predicting good events. I have seen so many annual charts repeating only unfavorable aspects and corresponding to extraordinary successes, and so many misfortunes and death with an annual chart full of favorable repetitions, that I am obliged almost to relegate these repetitions to the level of transits (i.e., to recognize their influence only during the time they exist in the heavens) and to assign them to the second or third level of importance as regards their influence on the overall year.

The retrogradation of planets at the time of the Return generally does not indicate new events, but a situation created by events prior to the date of the Solar Return. As in the natal chart, the effects of these planets diminish, contradict and delay any favorable things indicated if they contact the signifiers of coming events with a powerful aspect.

My own experience enables me to say that a great number of retrograde planets at the moment of birth is a factor opposing longevity. In annual charts, retrogradation especially seems to prolong obstacles and difficulties that prevent the achievement of either the native's desires, or of his happiness.

But in every instance, it is wisest always to make the interpretation of planetary activity subordinate to the indications furnished by the houses.

<sup>2</sup>Besides, the more I examine and experiment with the methods of von Klöckler, the more they seem to me both so limited in application and so vague, that they end by being a real caricature of Astrology.

## CHAPTER 9

### HOW TO DETERMINE THE DATES OF EVENTS IN SOLAR RETURNS

In many countries of the Orient—even in some countries of Europe (USSR, Poland, the Balkan countries), there is the curious custom in traditionalist families of celebrating the birthday for three days—a length of time which suggests a very ancient origin. This celebration begins the night before with a bath “so that the man may be as clean as a new-born babe”; and a belief deeply embedded in the soul of peoples as different as the Great-Russians and the Persians, claims that “whatever you do on your birthday, you will do all year.” Gifts of small coins to children are justified by a superstition that “if you have money on your birthday, you will have it all year long.”

This superstition, like so many others, is certainly derived from astrological sources. The life of nearly all peoples was at one time ordered in accord with the Science of the Stars. The perseverance of a custom preserves some practical applications of this science in the form of a superstition, while forgetting its original basis.

All the folk beliefs connected with the birthday can be explained if we assume that the classical measurement of Astrology, which accepts a day as the image of a year in a life, is also valid for the Solar Return; we will demonstrate this. The configurations that form during the twenty-four hours, starting from the exact moment of the Sun's return to its place in the birth chart, are portioned out over the coming year. During the

course of one day the planets, as it were, make a recording that plays back at a slower speed throughout the whole year. We only need verify this in a few Solar Returns to observe its soundness.

Practically speaking, this is the problem: we must take all the configurations that form on the day following the moment of the Solar Return and portion them out over the coming year. It is an extremely simple operation, since if a day is somehow equal to a year, two hours (1/12 of a day) correspond to one month, one hour corresponds to 15 days, and 4 minutes to one day.

Preference should naturally be given to nonlunar aspects, if any. For example, a Mars-Uranus sextile or semi-square — which is rarer astronomically than a Mercury-Jupiter trine — should automatically be considered more important than the latter. Rarely will a Solar Return contain more than two or three aspects of primary importance; for this reason they should be treated as pivotal in the interpretation.

The Ephemeris will generally give a complete list of aspects and celestial phenomena, including the minute when they occur.<sup>1</sup> This list will be very useful to us here, as we will show with our example chart.

The Solar Return we drew up in the first chapter was for January 14, 1936, 1h 19m 5s p.m. All the configurations that form during the next twenty-four hours after that moment will influence the native. The following table will help locate them in the year:

- 1 h 19m 55s p.m. or
- 13h 19m 55s corresponds to Jan 14, 1936
- 15h 19m 55s corresponds to Feb. 14, 1936
- 17h 19m 55s corresponds to March 14, 1936
- 19h 19m 55s corresponds to April 14, 1936, etc.

assuming for the sake of convenience that all the months are the same length.

<sup>1</sup>Our *Ephemerides Astronomiques Quotidiennes*, created during the hostilities and arrests in 1956, do not contain a complete aspectarian. Other Ephemerides have one, but with numerous errors; so it is wise to check one before using it.

The page taken from Dr. Williamson's Ephemeris (p. 3) contains an aspectarium. Between 13h 19m 55s of January 14, and 13h 19m 55s of January 15, we read:

Moon quincunx Mars	16h 21m
Moon quincunx Uranus	19h 19m
Moon parallel Neptune	23h 34m
Moon quincunx Saturn	6h 52m

No interplanetary aspect (excluding lunar ones) forms during the twenty-four hours following the return. If there had been one (for example a Venus or Mars aspect) it would have to receive preference.

Using the aspectarium in the ephemeris we can locate these four configurations:

- Moon quincunx Mars, progressed, Feb. 29, 1936
- Moon quincunx Uranus, progressed, April 14, 1936
- Moon quincunx Neptune, progressed, June 17, 1936
- Moon quincunx Saturn, progressed, Oct. 7, 1936

I have added the note *progressed* after the planets, in order not to confuse these configurations with those formed during that day between the planets of the Solar Return and those of the natal chart; the latter also appear to operate, though more weakly.

In the Ephemeris it is easy to find the arc covered by the planets of the Return in twenty-four hours. Since the Moon, because of its speed, generally forms the greatest number of configurations, it is useful to mark its diurnal movement on the Solar Return chart itself — as we have done in the sample chart.

By dividing the Moon's progress into twelve parts, corresponding to twelve months, we obtain the Moon's monthly positions, which will help us calculate the date for each configuration formed with the natal chart. The calculation is so simple it can be done mentally, but for beginners a list like the following will be easier:



Position for Jan. 14, 1936	28°35' Virgo
Feb. 14, 1936	29°35'
March 14, 1936	0°30' Libra
April 14, 1936	1°30'
May 15, 1936	2°29'
June 15, 1936	3°29'
July 15, 1936	4°28'
Aug. 15, 1936	5°28'
Sept. 15, 1936	6°28', etc.

Once this little table is worked out, a glance at the natal chart will determine all the progressions formed by the Moon, and the date they are formed:

Moon sextile natal Mars	May 17, 1936
Moon opposition natal Saturn	July 20, 1936
Moon trine natal Mercury	Sept. 1, 1936

And putting all the configurations together:

Moon quincunx Mars progressed	Feb. 29, 1936
Moon quincunx Uranus, progressed	April 14, 1936
Moon sextile natal Mars	May 17, 1936
Moon parallel Neptune, progressed	June 17, 1936
Moon opposition natal Saturn	July 20, 1936
Moon trine natal Mercury	Sept. 1, 1936
Moon quincunx Saturn, progressed	Oct. 7, 1936

The first two progressions correspond to problems caused by aggravation of the mother's ill health, which occurred around these dates. The third one forms part of the configurations that announce the mother's death on May 22. The sextile here may be surprising, since this angle is clearly benefic. But angles in progressions and directions often operate as a link between the two planets, rather than according to their essentially favorable or unfavorable nature. This is one of the basic differences between a chart's static aspects and the same angle formed by one or two planets in motion.<sup>2</sup> Furthermore, if two planets were in

<sup>2</sup>Most modern authors incorrectly use the word "aspect" to designate an angle formed by a progression or direction. The latter are based on the same angles as the aspects, but they belong to another domain.

favorable aspect at birth, this often corrects an unfavorable progression (or direction), and vice-versa. In our example Solar Return, the lunar sextile to Mars in May, 1936, is vitiated by the semisquare that linked these two planets at birth.

It may be equally astonishing that so important an event as the death of a mother is indicated by only one progression. The explanation for this is that the progressions outlined above are only part of the means provided by the Solar Return for determining the time of events (movement of the Ascendant and transits are equally important). In any case, Solar Returns should not be used as the only means of revealing the future. Personally, I always use them simultaneously with symbolic directions of a degree per year, and the Progressed Horoscope, because each traditional system of directions corresponds to a special perspective. The Solar Return enables us to describe in detail the events of the year, while the other systems help to determine the importance of these events. In our example, May 1936 is indicated in the Progressed Horoscope by Midheaven square radical Mars, Sun semi-square progressed Saturn, and Moon square Neptune which is sufficient.

Moon parallel Neptune, progressed, shows the native very depressed during the whole month of June. (In progressions and directions this planet acts primarily on the psychic level.)

Moon opposition natal Saturn will correspond to some difficulties in work, and so forth.

This system of progressions is very valuable for locating the events indicated in the Solar Return. Its principal fault is that frequently the most powerful configurations correspond to small insignificant events—and vice-versa. This can probably be explained by the assumption that annual charts have hardly begun to reveal their secrets to us. But it seems that the progressions that reproduce natal configurations in the annual chart have greater influence than the others. In our example, the lunar parallel to Neptune reproduces the natal square, and this explains the period of profound depression.

Another system of progressions also works with the Solar

Return: the symbolic system of a degree for a month. But like all symbolic systems, this one is more approximative in its results than the progressions we have just presented.

In our example, the month of the mother's death is indicated by a number of symbolic progressions:

Saturn opposite retro. Neptune	4.7 mos. after the birthday
North Node trine Neptune	4.4 mos. after the birthday
Mercury quincunx Neptune	4.7 mos. after the birthday
Saturn semi-sextile Mercury	4.7 mos. after the birthday
Uranus square natal Mercury	4.5 mos. after the birthday
Mars semi-sextile natal Saturn at	4.7 mos. after the birthday

and a few others not as close as these (the date of death was May 22, and the Solar Return was January 14: the distance between the two is approximately 4.3 months).

Like all the symbolic systems, these progressions are very easy to manage.

Let us look for the marriage date in H.P. Blavatsky's Solar Return for 1847. Saturn, ruler of the annual Midheaven, arrives at a sextile with natal Neptune (the only planet in the natal Seventh House) in the twelfth month. Uranus, second ruler of the annual Midheaven, arrives at a sextile with annual Neptune after eleven months. The arc of  $11^\circ$  (approximately) is the distance that separates the annual Venus from a trine with natal Uranus and a sextile with annual Mercury, and the distance between the Sun and its opposition with annual Neptune, etc. The marriage took place July 7, 1847 in the eleventh month (although perhaps this date is given in the Russian calendar and is in reality July 19 – which actually places it in the twelfth month of the current year).

A very unequal division of planets rising and setting can often be a valuable indication of the part of the year which will be most filled with events: an accumulation of planets around the Ascendant indicates the first part of the year; around the Midheaven, the middle of the year; while a large number of planets around the cusp of the Seventh House appears to delay

the indicated events until the second half of the year. A planetary mass in the Fourth House is often connected with events near the end of the year.

For example, H. P. Blavatsky's Solar Return before the creation of the Theosophical Society, seven planets are in the Eastern sector, which brought the event indicated quickly.

However, we cannot depend on indications furnished by the distribution of planets if these results do not agree with the real and symbolic progressions.

To conclude this chapter on determining the timing of events with the Solar Return chart, we must mention an interesting method recently discovered by a reliable researcher, René Débonnaire. This process consists in casting eleven monthly charts parallel to the Solar Return, each time displacing the Sun by one sign. This is how he described this method in a letter:

"Completely by chance I have discovered a process which enables me to ascertain and determine in advance the dates for the actualization of directions during the year. Unfortunately, so far I can establish probabilities for the month only: my attempts to predict the day and the hour have been futile.

"Here it is:

"Assume that the longitude of your natal Sun is  $1^\circ$  Aries, which corresponds approximately to March 22 (as a birthday). The Solar Return you cast for a given year will be calculated for the exact passage of the transiting Sun in  $1^\circ$  Aries, and will give you indications concerning the events of the whole year. This is accepted by everyone.

"Now, I have observed that the events of April 22 to May 22 are clearly indicated by a chart cast for the day and minute when the Sun is in  $1^\circ$  Taurus, i.e., in the same longitude as in the birth chart, but in another sign, namely, the following one. And the same for the other signs of the Zodiac.

"The aspects formed between the Ascendant and the Midheaven of the 'monthly Return' (same longitude of the Sun

but in a different sign) are especially remarkable; occasionally even the aspects of the directions in orb are faithfully reproduced in these monthly charts.

“Up to now, I have not had any ‘failures.’

“But, you may have guessed the criticism this system raises: It is impossible to erect a chart for the month of the birthday because it is doing double service as the Solar Return which gives prognostications for a year and not a month. It is very obvious that the astrological indications of the Solar Return (or what would be the same thing: the monthly Return for the month of birth) are almost never all realized in the first month of the birthday, but rather throughout the rest of the year.

“So my method would be valid for only eleven months of the year!”

Personally, since I have been occupied with other investigations, I have not had time to use this system, but these monthly charts are only an extension of the principle of Solar Transits, which we will discuss in the following chapter. A Swiss astrologer devoted a pamphlet to the subject in 1950, without even mentioning René Débonnaire, although the Swiss astrologer learned of the existence of this method through the present work.

Since then, some astrologers have successfully extended this principle beyond the monthly charts, by also casting 23 charts for the decans, and comparing them with the Solar Return and the birth chart. Each reader can easily determine their reliability for himself by casting a monthly chart for our example—for the solar position  $23^{\circ} 13' 20''$  Gemini, i.e., for May 14, 1926, 5h 14m 17s a.m. GMT, Nice (this will also be a decan chart, since the mother's death occurred eight days later). Its house orientation is similar to that of the Solar Return, and its Ascendant is in the natal Eighth House.

## CHAPTER 10

### TRANSITS

Planetary transits used in connection with the Solar Return chart are often valuable for determining the date of some event or the phases of an affair. But contrary to the use of transits with the natal chart where only the superior planets are used (Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune, and Pluto), here the greatest importance should be assigned to the Sun. In fact, it is frequently like the hands of a clock which indicates the timing of an event by its conjunction (or other major aspect) with the astrological elements of the Return.

For example, at the time of the Theosophical Society's creation, the Sun transited to a square with the Moon, ruler of the annual Midheaven. The unfavorable nature of this square is here corrected by the luminaries' trine in the Solar Return.

At the moment of Robespierre's execution,<sup>1</sup> the transiting Sun squared the Return Ascendant, while the death of Proudhon corresponded to the Sun's transit over the annual Ascendant.<sup>2</sup>

Note that this role of the Sun is not apparent in the Solar Return for H. P. Blavatsky's death; at the moment of her death the Sun forms not only a square to its own place, but also a square to natal Jupiter (which is clearly more important).

<sup>1</sup>See P. Choissard, *Langage Astral*, Fourth edition, Paris, p. 205-297.

<sup>2</sup>Choissard, p. 222-228.

This square between the Sun of the day and the natal Sun is frequently seen at the time of death, but it belongs both to the realm of classical transits and to that of the Return. It is present at the moment of Gambetta's death, for example; I see no point in printing the charts, since every student of astrology has P. Choisnard's *Langage Astral*.

Several years of verification enable me to say that the favorable and unfavorable nature of dates can be determined in advance according to the aspects the Sun in its progress makes with the planets, the Ascendant and the Midheaven of the Return. The Sun's opposition to the annual Ascendant, for example, always brings illnesses, and if the annual Ascendant was in the Solar sign Leo or in Aries (exaltation of the Sun) or if the Sun occupies the Sixth or Twelfth House in the Return chart, this opposition to the Ascendant could be the cause of a serious illness or great pain (even for a woman whose natal Sun is not hyleg).

These transits are as definitive as the more common transits connected with the natal chart, and they explain easily the gaps left by the latter. Due to the speed of the Sun, the number of solar transits to the planets and angles of the Solar Return often exceeds the total number of the "classical transits" by the superior planets. The "empty" months, very common with the Progressed Horoscope and normal transits, do not exist with the Solar Return, which seems to be the richest source of deductions and indications from all standpoints.

The Sun's transit in the annual First House almost always gives increased importance to personal problems and preoccupations (depending, of course, on the nature of the house of the horoscope it governs, and on the zodiacal sign of the annual Ascendant). In the Second House the accent is on financial preoccupations, on money, income and revenues. In the Third—on relations with those in the immediate vicinity, on applications, travel or studies (especially in students' charts). In the Fourth—family matters, or those relating to residence or to buying of property. In the Fifth—the affections, amusements,

children or individual creativity, with the tendency to expansion becoming more apparent. In the Sixth—it is everyday work or problems involving health which predominate. In the Seventh—the solar transit accentuates social matters, partnerships or the area of marriage and conjugal life, and generally indicates an increase in defensive reactions. In the Eighth House—this transit partially extinguishes the vitality and the optimistic and active energies of the Sun. In the Ninth—it stimulates intellectual activity and often corresponds either to journeys or to things involving justice (law). The Sun's transit over the annual Midheaven is generally an incitement to action, and it operates in much the same manner as the transit of Mars over the natal Midheaven, i.e., it increases courage and energy; it is unusual for this passage of the Sun through the Tenth House not to be represented by something important in the native's business dealings. In the Eleventh House—it ordinarily indicates a great deal of bustling, vitality, plans and long-range intentions (in a direction dictated, of course, by the general interpretation of the Solar Return, by its "tonality"). In the Twelfth—it most often indicates a dull existence, a decrease in vitality or an increase in worries.

In some instances the effects of solar transits seem to be expressed more strongly at the beginning than at the end of the year. It is as if the dynamic form of the Solar Return began to wear out in the last third of the year (just as the new moon charts in Mundane Astrology, for example, mark the first days of the lunar month more clearly than they do the last), but this weakening in the power of the Solar transits still needs to be verified, because this observation is based on an extremely limited number of charts.

The transits of Mercury, Venus and Mars are also useful, but their importance never exceeds that of the solar transits. Nevertheless, if Mars and Jupiter become retrograde after the birthday, their direct transits over their own positions frequently release significant events indicated by the planets.

But, after the Sun, it is useful to note the transits of the fast

planets, which indicate favorable and unfavorable periods in the year according to the houses they rule in the Return chart. For example, if the Tenth House is in Libra, the period when Venus, which governs this sign, transits this house should be considered favorable to the native's activity (except for the days when Venus is in unfavorable aspect with the annual planets).

Another example: the Eleventh House of a Solar Return is in Gemini. The native wants to know favorable dates for business overtures to friends. The days when Mercury is in Gemini and Virgo, and those when it forms favorable aspects with the annual planets, should be considered favorable from this point of view.

Very often these dates correspond to actual events. In our example (see the example chart in the first chapter) the Ninth House of journeys begins at  $25^{\circ}26'$  Capricorn, i.e., it is governed by Saturn and Mars (which is exalted in this sign). Saturn is too slow for us to use its transits, and so preference is given to the swifter Mars, which squared Saturn on July 6; the journey planned by the native for the beginning of July was delayed—in accord with the unfavorable nature of the aspect and the natural character of Saturn. On July 13, Mars trined Mercury, which was in the Ninth House of the Return, and on the 22nd of the same month, it arrived at conjunction with the Ascendant. The trip actually took place at this time.

The native took another trip on October 1936. On October 8, Mars moved to an opposition with Saturn, and the unfavorable nature of this aspect was demonstrated by the fact that the departure, originally set for October 6, was delayed for automobile repairs. The native's return to Nice took place on October 15 and 16, when Mars transited in quincunx to Mercury.

As we said earlier, the principle event of this Solar Return is the mother's death. Her condition suddenly worsened on January 24, 1936, when Mars transited over Saturn, and the Sun was squaring Uranus, ruler of the Midheaven (within  $1.5^{\circ}$ ).

Death was expected any day, but the absence of fatal progressions and directions contradicted the doctors' pessimism,

and the sick woman improved after the beginning of February. Her health slipped again toward the end of this month, under the influence of the Moon quincunx progressed Mars, but it did not give out until May 22, when the Sun squared Mars, Mercury transited in opposition to Venus and Jupiter, Mars squared Saturn, and Uranus made a sextile to Saturn (as we observed in the preceding chapter, the aspect often acts as a link between two planets and not according to its benefic or malefic nature as an aspect).

Transits are almost always found corresponding to events in Solar Returns; but we have to look, not for the transits of the slower planets, but for the transits of the swift planets connected with the houses implicated in the event. Observation suggests that sometimes the classical transits (i.e., of superior planets to the natal chart) are "modified" by the place the transiting planet occupies in the Solar Return chart (which may explain why two identical transits hardly ever give the same results), but this still requires a long period of observation before it can be formulated into a rule.

## CHAPTER 11

## THE MOVEMENT OF THE ASCENDANT

Experience shows that the progression of the Ascendant, which makes a complete circle of the zodiac in one year, has the same importance as the transits of the Sun. Of course this movement is merely a logical development of the method of real progressions,<sup>1</sup> according to which, configurations that form during the twenty-four hours following the moment of the birthday are distributed throughout the twelve months of the year. The progress of the Ascendant during 3m 56.6s corresponds to one day. However, beginners who do not possess complete tables of the Ascendant (like those given in the second volume of the *Dictionnaire Astrologique* by H. Gouchon and J. Reverchon, or the now classic *Dalton Tables*) may start by using a uniform movement of the Ascendant which is (360°/365 days) 59' 10.7" per day, but in this case they must not expect exact aspects, because during the progress of the Ascendant through signs of long ascension this measure will be too large, and when the Ascendant is in signs of short ascension, the 59' 10.7" daily movement will be too small.

This annual movement of the Ascendant is especially valuable for verifying the favorable or unfavorable nature of a given day, or for determining exactly an event announced by progressions.

<sup>1</sup>We had to adopt this name to distinguish this system from the symbolic progressions of one degree per month.

Some examples will better demonstrate the importance of this method than would any theoretical considerations.

Once more let us use the Solar Return cast in the first chapter. It is cast for 1h 19m 55s a.m. GMT, which gives a Sidereal Time of 21h 20m 23s.

As we said earlier, the mother's death took place on May 22, 1936, which is 129 days from the moment of the Return. Multiplying 129 days by 3m 56.6s, we get 8h 28m 41s, which we must add to 21h 20m 23s (the tables we have printed at the end of the book obviate the need for these calculations). The new Sidereal Time will be (21h 20m 23s + 8h 28m 49s) 5h 49m 12s—which corresponds to May 22 and places the Ascendant in quadrature to the natal Venus, ruler of the Eighth House, and in conjunction with the annual Moon.<sup>2</sup>

The three significant trips were made July 13 and 22, and October 15-16. The first date, 181 days after the date of the Return, which gives us a Sidereal Time of 9h 15m, shows the Ascendant in exact trine with annual Saturn, ruler of the Ninth and Tenth Houses—which clearly indicates a business trip. The July 22 trip brings the Ascendant to a semisextile with natal Jupiter and trine with natal Neptune, which occupied the Ninth House. The configuration involving Jupiter can be easily explained by the fact that this trip was made with his partner, and Jupiter occupies the Eleventh House in the nativity—governing friends—and is on the cusp of the annual Seventh).

The third trip, on the 15-16 of October, 266 days from the time of the Return, brings the Ascendant into the Ninth House in trine with the Moon of the Return (ruler of the Third).

This Movement of the Ascendant clears up many details that lacked scientific explanation, such as the observations that illness appears much more frequently during the month pre-

<sup>2</sup>This Sidereal Time gives an Ascendant of 27° 56' Virgo—which corresponds to its position 129 days after the moment of the birthday, but since the death took place at 10 p.m. and not at 1h 19m 55s p.m., the conjunction of the Ascendant with the Moon was almost exact at the time of death.

ceding the birthday than during the other months. During the twelfth month the Ascendant inevitably traverses the Twelfth House, and if it is superimposed on a natal house that influences health (First, Sixth, Eighth or Twelfth), health problems can be predicted with certainty. Their dates can easily be ascertained by progressions, transits and configurations formed by the Ascendant.

Some configurations formed by the Ascendant appear to possess a significance all their own, but my observations in this area are not yet extensive enough to prepare a complete list.<sup>3</sup> But, as an example, very frequently the passage of the annual Ascendant over the Midheaven or the Moon corresponds to the birth of children, even if these two factors of the Return have nothing to do with the annual or natal Fifth House.

These effects of the movement of the Ascendant can easily be proven by statistics. The following is a typical example.

The general reaction to astrological statistics is, of course, tainted with scepticism. Whoever presents them is swiftly accused of "choosing" his data, or of being misled by "coincidence."

To avoid this criticism, we have used the *Dictionnaire des Biographies*, published in 1958 by Pierre Grimal at Presses Universitaires, and we have used all the dates for birth and death that were there. Most of the biographies do not give this data; there are numerous paragraphs about contemporary figures that neglect to mention the date of birth or death (even where it is well known), and this *Dictionnaire* contains only 1,414 cases which we can use (744 in the first volume and 670 in the second). Like all statistics, these are not exempt from criticism, but nevertheless, the results obtained have a clearly indicative value.

<sup>3</sup>Astrological Tradition is completely silent on this subject, although this progression of the Ascendant was regularly employed by most of the great astrologers, including Morin de Villefranche, as is clearly shown in *Astrologia Gallica* (see *Ma Vie Devant les Astres*, translated by J. Hiéroz; the series of Solar Returns there may also serve as an overwhelming demonstration in favor of this system).

Our goal is to ascertain when death is most frequent, compared to the date of birth, considering the first 30 days after the birth date as the first month, the next thirty as the second, and so forth. Every astrologer knows that although the Solar Return Ascendant for the year of death may fall in any natal house whatsoever—although certain positions are clearly more common—nevertheless the Ascendant passes through the annual First House during the first month, the annual Second House in the second month, etc. The signs of short and long ascension (i.e., the latitude) will, of course, throw off the exact coincidence of the months with the annual houses, but these connections between the months and the houses should nevertheless appear in the statistics, and demonstrate that certain times of the individual year (starting from the birthday) are more propitious for death than others.

Correctly or incorrectly, we have based our work on the Sun's position to settle any disputable cases; for example:

Heiberg (#672 of our sample) born November 27, 1854, died the same date in 1928. We assigned his death to the twelfth month since in 1928 the Sun was 1° behind its position in 1854.

For Durkheim (#466) born April 15 and died November 15, we assigned his death to the seventh month, since on November 15, the Sun is generally 2° behind its longitude on April 15. The same applied to Fabry (our #485), Levi-Civita, Louis XVI and a number of others, but the reverse for Epinas (#481), Balard (#74), Barras (#85), etc. We adopted this *modus operandi* with some hesitations, foreseeing some possible objections, but the variation it causes should even out in the end without distorting the results.

Now we can respond to the question: when does death occur?

These 1,414 cases taken from the *Dictionnaire des Biographies* give a monthly average of 117.83. Nevertheless death occurs:

101 times in the first month (-17)  
 114 times in the second month (-4)  
 115 times in the third month (-3)  
 114 times in the fourth month (-4)  
 125 times in the fifth month (+7)  
 126 times in the sixth month (+8)

111 times in the seventh month (-7)  
 132 times in the eighth month (+14)  
 104 times in the ninth month (-14)  
 94 times in the tenth month (-24)  
 144 times in the eleventh month (+26)  
 134 times in the twelfth month (+16)

Represented graphically, these results will accentuate the evil nature of the sixth, eighth, and the last two months of the personal year. We must note not only the cases above average in the eighth month, but the difference between the eighth and the seventh (21), and the ninth (28). In the same way, the increase between the tenth and eleventh month (50), and the decrease from the twelfth to the first (33) are evocative and significant. One may ask why this statistic brings out a dangerous character in the eleventh month, but the eleventh house is traditionally the debility of the Sun, planet of life;<sup>4</sup> this may be a statistical confirmation of the place of the Sun's debilitation.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>4</sup>I must note that a similar statistic made from 1,250 cases in our private collection gave a slightly different curve, accentuating the positive values of the fourth, sixth, eighth and twelfth months, and decreasing those of the second, fifth and especially the eleventh month which instead of being first, occupied only the third place after the eighth and the twelfth month and before the sixth and fourth.

Only an investigation made with a much larger number of cases could give a truly valid curve. Our statistics are useful only as an indication.

<sup>5</sup>In some cases the zodiacal "breadth" of the Twelfth House may increase this tally of mortality during the eleventh month. For example, Francis Jammes (#716 of our sample) died November 1, 1938 after having been born December 2, 1868, which caused us to put his death in the eleventh month, while it would really be the Twelfth House if we cast the Solar Return. The same thing applies to the founder of Port-Royal (#53) who died two days before her twelfth month, and other personages in the *Dictionnaire*.

It is appropriate that the tenth month, which corresponds to the Tenth House of action, seems inimical to death and holds the lowest position in this distribution (-24), activity being incompatible with the rigidity of a corpse.

This *Dictionnaire des Biographies* does not always reveal the cause of death, but there seems to be some relation between the cause and the month of death. Death after a long illness, as with Hume (#701) or Huysmans (#705) is indisputably responsible for the increase in death in the fourth month (—Fourth House, of the end of things).

These 1,414 cases include 112 violent deaths:

11 in the first month (4 murders or deaths from wounds, accidents, 3 executions and one suicide);  
 8 in the second month (4 murders, 2 accidents, 1 execution and 1 suicide);  
 8 in the third month (4 murders, 3 executions, and 1 suicide);  
 8 in the fourth month (6 murders and 2 executions)  
 12 in the fifth month (5 murders, 5 executions, 1 accident and 1 suicide);  
 16 in the sixth month (5 executions, 4 accidents, 4 suicides and 3 murders);  
 11 in the seventh month (7 murders, 3 executions and 1 accident);  
 5 in the eighth month (2 murders, 2 executions and 1 accident);  
 7 in the ninth month (4 executions, 2 murders and 1 accident);  
 5 in the tenth month (3 executions, 1 accident and 1 suicide);  
 10 in the eleventh month (7 murders and 3 executions);  
 11 in the twelfth month (7 executions, 3 murders and 1 suicide).

The curve for these violent deaths does not correspond to the distribution previously obtained, since the sixth month is in the lead here (perhaps because it has the highest number of



suicides, which in some instances could be considered a sort of mental illness)<sup>6</sup> and the eighth month has the smallest number, as does the tenth, the lowest of all. Is this because the Eighth House influences natural death more than violent death?

If we deduct these 112 cases from the natural mortality rate, we obtain, for 1302 cases (whose average is now 108.5):

90 in the first month (-18.5)

106 in the second month (-2.5)

107 in the third month (-1.5)

106 in the fourth month (-2.5)

113 in the fifth month (+5.5)

110 in the sixth month (+1.5)

101 in the seventh month (-8.5)

127 in the eighth month (+18.5)

97 in the ninth month (-11.5)

89 in the tenth month (-19.5)

134 in the eleventh month (+25.5)

123 in the twelfth month (+14.5)

These new figures accentuate the fatal nature of the eighth month even more in comparison with its neighbors, since there is a difference of 27 instances (instead of 21) with the seventh month, and of 30 instances (instead of 28) with the following month, i.e., variations of 24.89% and of 27.65%.

I do not think there is any point in extending these comments. Astrological statisticians have repeatedly claimed that their figures showed no trace of signs and houses, without realizing that this was a simple result of an initial error in the selection of elements to examine. Some have even suggested "inverting" the houses and putting the First in the position of the Twelfth, but our little statistics here clearly confirms the "malefic" nature of the twelfth month and the "benefic" nature of the first.

<sup>6</sup>Among natural deaths for that month we find insane people like de Sade (#1,234 of our sample), and Jeanne La Folle (#725).

What we have done here for the Eighth and Twelfth Houses can easily be done for all the others, assuming of course that subjects other than death are used. For example, a statistic done in my youth—I no longer recall how many cases were used—showed me that marriage tended to occur more often at the seventh, tenth, first and fifth month, than at any other times of the individual year.

Configurations made by the Midheaven in its circular progress also appear to be significant (at the time of the Theosophical Society's foundation, the Return Midheaven was in conjunction with the Sun), but it seems to me that its configurations are expressed much more freely in the life compared to those of the Ascendant.

## CHAPTER 12

A SUPPLEMENTARY SYSTEM  
FOR DATING EVENTS

In 1947, J. Mery—who was born in Normandy, April 7, 1876 around 10h 30m a.m., and who died in Paris November 1, 1949—published a book about Solar Returns under the ill-chosen title of *Les Lunaisons en Astrologie (The Lunations in Astrology)*. Although the word “lunation” is generally applied to either the whole of the lunar month up to the new moon, J. Mery uses this term to designate first the Moon’s longitude in the Solar Return, and then its successive positions—spaced at intervals of 28 days 2 hours 19 minutes starting from the date of the Return.

Logically, these lunar positions should be designated by a more appropriate term, for example, “monthly indicators”—but so often astrological authors invent their own terms, complicating matters pointlessly, and in my opinion, J. Mery was not able to avoid this pitfall.

Furthermore, he might have advised his readers to take the Moon’s positions in two successive Solar Returns—approximately  $120^\circ$  to  $140^\circ$  apart—and to divide this arc into 13 parts (or even into 12, to bring these positions to nearly the same date each month)—a simpler and faster calculation than the one he recommends. It is almost impossible to imagine that he could not have noticed what a simple matter it is to make the sections of the arc separating the two annual lunar positions correspond to the periods of the astrological year, and then to interpret the configurations formed by that satellite. Of course, there is a

slight difference between positions calculated every 28 days 2 hours 19 minutes, and the simpler division of the arc between the lunar positions in two succeeding Solar Returns into 12 or 13 parts, but Mery apparently was not looking for the exact date of events, but only for their general time, and for the general atmosphere of the month, so this difference does not seem very significant. A methodical verification, carried out since 1947, enables me to say that in certain cases the simpler method gives even better results, while in others, Mery’s calculations prove to be more accurate. Here we are apparently faced with the same mysterious phenomenon that makes certain birth charts “respond” more to one system of directions than to others.

For our demonstration of the calculations we will again use our example Solar Return for January 1, 1936, 1h 19m 55s p.m. GMT, which was cast in the first chapter, and which corresponds to the mother’s death on May 22.

According to Mery, we must determine the lunar position for:

Feb. 11, 1936	15h 39m or $7^\circ 51'$ Libra
March 10	17h 58m or $17^\circ 35'$ Libra
April 7	20h 17m or $27^\circ 37'$ Libra
May 5	22h 36m or $7^\circ 38'$ Scorpio
June 3	0h 55m or $17^\circ 25'$ Scorpio

and so forth. On May 22 the Moon was at approximately  $13^\circ$  Scorpio, without any characteristic aspects (if we ignore the semi-square to natal Venus, ruler of the natal Eighth House), since it has passed the square to annual Mercury and is applying to the sextile to natal Jupiter.

The calculation I have recommended is infinitely more simple; it involves taking the arc between  $28^\circ 35'$  Virgo (the lunar position in the Solar Return in 1936) and  $6^\circ 29'$  Aquarius (lunar position of the Return for 1937) and dividing these  $127^\circ 54'$  by 12 months (or 52 weeks or even 365.4 days, which gives a diurnal movement of  $21'$ ). The lunar position for the death of the mother will be slightly greater, i.e.  $13^\circ 45'$  Scorpio, but the difference is minimal, and nothing proves that Mery’s “lunation” method is better.

Since we are dealing with a "rich" astrological system, i.e., one that offers a great number of configurations in the course of each year, it is rare not to find characteristic aspects. This position is an exception.

As a defense against this case, we should add that this chart's native was killed in an automobile accident near Paris, where he was then living, on July 27, 1961; at this moment, the Moon, ruler of the annual Ascendant, was in exact opposition to Uranus, ruler of the Eighth and Ninth Houses of the 1961 Solar Return (the original lunar position was at  $7^{\circ}37'$  Sagittarius, and that of his posthumous birthday  $1^{\circ}48'$  Taurus).

In any case, here are Mery's interpretations of the lunar positions in a Solar Return (since his book is out of print, I think it will be a service to those who do not have it):

### MOON IN THE SIGNS

**In Aries**, the Moon announces a mobile, capricious year, according to the significance of the house it occupies (which holds true for the other positions in houses).

**In Taurus**, it promises a favorable annual period, propitious for projects and conquest of psychological, material or physical difficulties. Business prosperity.

**In Gemini**, it tends to create difficult situations. Frequent trips. Forecasts a change.

**In Cancer**, good reflexes, thanks to an active imagination and a good intellectual equilibrium, a time of advancement at work and luck in difficulties represented by the house occupied.

**In Leo**, it manifests powerfully the conditions in which are presented manifestations of the houses in reception of the Moon.

**In Virgo**, a time of practical accomplishments, but some danger from carelessness, depending on the significance of the house occupied.

**In Libra**, favorable for social and intimate relations, but could be compromised by unbalanced emotional control. Thus danger of separation or disorder in partnerships or collaborations.

**In Scorpio**, a troubled year, unfavorable for things governed by the house occupied. Relationships create strife.

**In Sagittarius**, a year full of vitality and activity. Success according to house. Year for journeys.

**In Capricorn**, a year of sluggishness and obstacles, signified by the house occupied; not much luck.

**In Aquarius**, good activity in fortunate houses; otherwise, adversity in unfortunate houses. A character very influenced by failure. Frequent travel.

**In Pisces**, a fertile year for plans. Financial achievements, but unstable ones, caused by things governed by the house occupied.

### MOON IN THE HOUSES

#### First House

**Benefic:** tends to changes, feminine influence on the year or month.

**Malefic:** instability in plans. Health must be guarded especially in feminine chart.

#### Second House

**Benefic:** fortunate financial relations. Increase in earnings.

**Malefic:** unfavorable year and months for money matters; capricious time. Alternation of gain and loss.

#### Third House

**Benefic:** frequent journeys or short travel. Contentment with brothers, sisters or neighbors. Favorable time for studies.

**Malefic:** travel surrounded by problems. Adversity from relatives.

**Fourth House**

Benefic: favorable for family life. Satisfying change of residence. Propitious time for real estate, buying and selling, for matters of inheritance.

Malefic: obstacles in plans for change of residence, or a change followed by complications. Danger for the father or mother.

**Fifth House**

Benefic: propitious lunar position for pregnancy, in a fertile sign. New love. Luck in speculation.

Malefic: instability in love given or received. Problems from love relationships. Difficult pregnancy. Worries from children.

**Sixth House**

Benefic: delicate health, but only transitory troubles.

Malefic: health seriously affected.

**Seventh House**

Benefic: propitious time for marriage, partnership and contracts.

Malefic: instability in the home, in partnerships. Lunar position that spoils or delays plans for marriage, or collaboration or partnerships. Unfortunate trial.

**Eighth House**

Benefic: spouse in good financial condition. Acquisition of wealth after bereavement.

Malefic: weakened vitality—for the wife, or for the native in a feminine chart. Eventful time.

**Ninth House**

Benefic: fortunate, pleasant journeys. Development in a spiritual direction.

Malefic: danger while traveling. Confused erratic mind.

**Tenth House**

Benefic: development of career; change of occupation under good conditions, prosperity, popularity.

Malefic: disturbances at work. Difficulty in sticking to work. Difficult time.

**Eleventh House**

Benefic: many friends. New social, friendly relationships. Feminine support.

Malefic: numerous and unstable friendly relationships. Promises of support unfulfilled. Bad feminine influence among relationships.

**Twelfth House**

Benefic: protection against psychological and material ordeals. Propitious time for spiritual orientation.

Malefic: problems, complications through a woman. Chronic health problems. A time of ordeal.

Starting with these initial positions in the Return chart, J. Mery interprets the lunar configurations in the arc separating the lunar position of one Solar Return from the next, as follows:

**MOON IN THE FIRST HOUSE****In Aspect with the Sun**

Benefic: indicates an harmonious month, one of development, authority, success, individual activity.

Malefic: difficult month, instability of efforts and plans.

**In Aspect with Mercury**

Benefic: favors Mercury occupations, studies, commercial matters.

Malefic: if Mercury is less than 5° from the Sun, be on guard against flighty and hesitant thoughts, persecution by criticism, and betrayal. Bad for business.

**In Aspect with Venus**

Benefic: propitious month for love-life, social relations, marriage plans, artistic occupations and development of faculties connected with any of these.

Malefic: disappointment in love and love plans. Instability in affections. Dangers through careless management of love affairs.

**In Aspect with Mars**

Beneific: favorable month for action and conquest of difficulties.

Malefic: recklessness, dangerous impulses. Overwork. Arguments, strife instigated by native himself. Guard against irritability.

**In Aspect with Jupiter**

Beneific: good time to gain friendships and support, and for applications to superiors. Legal successes.

Malefic: failure through bad judgment. Time of stagnation, bad for business projects.

**In Aspect with Saturn**

Beneific: favorable for long range projects. Stability in things begun during the month. Necessity for patient efforts.

Malefic: obstacles and delays in everything. Futile plans. Psychological and physical depression.

**In Aspect with Uranus**

Beneific: propitious for original creations, daring and new ideas based on independent initiative. Sudden favorable event.

Malefic: sudden unforeseen problems of which the native is the cause. Beware of impatience and exaggerated outbursts. Possible accident (check position of Mars and Saturn, and the aspects received).

**In Aspect with Neptune**

Beneific: propitious time for success of artistic or mystical faculties. Development of mediumship. Intuitions.

Malefic: temperament becomes very susceptible, dreamy, utopian. Failure and unbalance in everything.

**MOON IN THE SECOND HOUSE****In Aspect with the Sun**

Beneific: favorable lunation for money and income through own action. Development of finances. Increase of income.

Malefic: financial troubles. Significant losses. Danger of being too ambitious.

**In Aspect with Mercury**

Beneific: propitious for earnings from commerce and writing. Favorable time for money, but more repetitive than significant.

Malefic: fraudulent earnings. Losses by theft or deceit.

**In Aspect with Venus**

Beneific: earnings through love relationships, luxury trade, beautification, artistic occupation.

Malefic: expenses. Feminine influences hinder stability of earnings. Failure in artistic occupations, luxury, clothing.

**In Aspect with Mars**

Beneific: favorable for initiatives, sources of income. Renewed activity and increase of financial realization.

Malefic: gains followed by losses. Fluid and reckless expenses. Bad speculation.

**In Aspect with Jupiter**

Beneific: prosperous lunation. Increase of gains. Projects are financially favored. Acquisition of possessions. Improvement of financial situation.

Malefic: financially disastrous speculations or enterprises. Loss of money. Instability of acquired wealth.

**In Aspect with Saturn**

Beneific: slow achievements in money matters, but sure ones. Necessity for care in administration of financial possessions

Malefic: harmful delay in hopes for gain. Critical time. Financial deficits.

**In Aspect with Uranus**

Benefic: alternation of gain and loss. Sporadic turnover. Prudence required in money matters.

Malefic: sudden money problems. Serious losses. Eccentricities in money management. Financial difficulties.

**In Aspect with Neptune**

Benefic: gains through lucky inspirations, through psychic faculties and experiences.

Malefic: upsetting time. Mysterious losses. Lack of skill in handling financial matters.

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**MOON IN THE THIRD HOUSE****In Aspect with the Sun**

Benefic: success in occupations requiring small trips. Good time for all intellectual work. Contentment with brothers, sisters.

Malefic: failure caused by indecision in management of abilities. Disagreements with relations. Unproductive travel.

**In Aspect with Mercury**

Benefic: frequent favorable small trips. Propitious time for studies, exams, literary work. Successful correspondence.

Malefic: verbal or written disagreements with brothers, sisters. Mental instability counterproductive. Unfavorable trips.

**In Aspect with Venus**

Benefic: very propitious lunation for artistic success, for study of music, development of ability in these fields. Meetings involving the affections during travel, good relations with brothers, sisters or with associates.

Malefic: every love encounter is transitory. Difficulty in achieving artistic hopes. Female relatives fighting.

**In Aspect with Mars**

Benefic: time of good resources for mental activity. Short productive trips. New directions for talents.

Malefic: disputes with relatives (brothers, sisters, cousins). Small dangers during travel. Annoyance from writing or from reckless verbal exchanges.

**In Aspect with Jupiter**

Benefic: financial rewards from writing, short trips. Good understanding with relatives. Protection against accidents during travel.

Malefic: disadvantageous legal actions with brothers, sisters. Indecisions in judgment which hinder development of abilities.

**In Aspect with Saturn**

Benefic: favorable time for patient effort. Satisfaction in studies. Useful relations with older people, among relatives.

Malefic: obstacles to necessary travel, or difficulties during the same. Obstacles to mental work. Bad luck in studies and exams. Adversity from brothers or sisters.

**In Aspect with Uranus**

Benefic: many small trips. Development of mental abilities. Intellectual rewards. Research favored. Sudden departures.

Malefic: trips sown with misadventures that appear suddenly. Problems and severing of relations with relatives (brothers, sisters). Agonies caused by writings.

**In Aspect with Neptune**

Benefic: favorable time for inspired work. Travel by water (rivers), especially when in a water sign.

Malefic: disappointments in intellectual or spiritual enterprises. Travel accidents. Disharmony with brothers and sisters.

**MOON IN THE FOURTH HOUSE****In Aspect with the Sun**

Benefic: good relations with parents. Fortunate influence from them. Favorable time for acquisition of real estate.

Malefic: parents cause obstacles, problems. Unfavorable for buying or selling real estate.

**In Aspect with Mercury**

Benefic: favorable change of residence. Good relations with parents-in-law. Successful real estate operations.

Malefic: arguments about property. Bad time for change of residence, or changes that must be avoided. Bad orientation in management of property.

**In Aspect with Venus**

Benefic: propitious time for inheritances, acquisition of property, for buying and selling of real property, commercial property. Support from family.

Malefic: loss of a patrimony in the native's possession, or disappointment in hopes of getting it. Problems with inheritance matters.

**In Aspect with Mars**

Benefic: gains through buildings, business or commercial property. Propitious time for change of residence.

Malefic: strife with parents. Loss of real estate, through lack of organization, through fire. Danger to a member of the family (father in a masculine chart; mother in a feminine chart). Expenses for restoration of buildings.

**In Aspect with Jupiter**

Benefic: favorable for acquisition of property. Support of parents. Pleasant home situation.

Malefic: embezzlement of property. Unfortunate trial involving inheritance or real estate.

**In Aspect with Saturn**

Benefic: good management of property (land, buildings). Stability of acquisitions.

Malefic: bereavement of parents (father or mother, depending on whether it is a masculine or feminine chart.) Loss of real estate.

**In Aspect with Uranus**

Benefic: sudden change of residence. New milieu. Difficulties with family or in matters of inheritance overcome.

Malefic: change of residence in the midst of serious problems. Unfavorable time for change of location. Disputes with the family about property. Sudden danger for the father or mother.

**In Aspect with Neptune**

Benefic: gains through buying or selling of property.

Malefic: dispersion of the family. Complications in relations with parents. Unfavorable period for operations of buying or selling of real estate.

**MOON IN THE FIFTH HOUSE****In Aspect with the Sun**

Benefic: favorable for speculations, success where the feelings are concerned, and in occupations involving the performing arts, teaching, public functions. Luck at lotteries.

Malefic: unsuccessful speculations. Dangerous for children. Sterility. Problems in work and relations with the public.

**In Aspect with Mercury**

Benefic: favorable for situations involving places of amusement, theatres, singing and dancing lessons. Successful financial speculation. Feelings based on reason.

Malefic: disappointments, deceptions in love and affections, through children or through friendly relations. Unsuccessful speculations.

**In Aspect with Venus**

Benefic: propitious time for love affairs, speculations, artistic pursuits. Promise of conception if Venus and Moon are in a fertile sign.

Malefic: unstable love relations. Danger of complications from an unfortunate liaison.

**In Aspect with Mars**

Benefic: reckless involvements, easy success in them. Favorable for speculations in this house if Mars is dignified.

Malefic: very unfavorable time emotionally, if in a feminine chart. Pregnancy dangerous at the end (labor). Worries due to children. Loss through speculation.

**In Aspect with Jupiter**

Benefic: a lutation of luck through speculations and lotteries. Gains through public occupations (teaching, banks, theatres). A financially supportive liaison.

Malefic: object of deceit in love. Disappointments and losses in gambling, speculations. Risky projects in public enterprises.

**In Aspect with Saturn**

Benefic: solid investments. Stable love relations, with persons older than the native. Not very favorable period for conception.

Malefic: obstacle to emotional satisfaction. Infertility. Worries about children. Danger to their vitality. Disastrous speculations.

**In Aspect with Uranus**

Benefic: sudden, hurried, concealed love relations. Risky speculations, with some success.

Malefic: sudden separations. Emotional ordeals. Sudden losses of money through bad speculations. Worries from children.

**In Aspect with Neptune**

Benefic: favorable time for children. Success in musical, theatrical pursuits. Eclectic, platonic love encounters.

Malefic: infidelities in love. Emotional recklessness. Obstacles to the wishes of the heart.

**MOON IN THE SIXTH HOUSE****In Aspect with the Sun**

Benefic: insignificant health indispositions. Successes in subordinate positions or with employees. Easy recovery in case of illness.

Malefic: weak vitality. Health put to the test. Inferior dissatisfying position. Problems with subordinates.

**In Aspect with Mercury**

Benefic: subordinate work or personal initiative is happily accentuated. Success in medical or chemical lab work. Transitory nervous disturbances.

Malefic: overwork of nerves. Cerebral fatigue. Dispute with subordinates.

**In Aspect with Venus**

Benefic: favorable for work for others. Success with subordinates. Protection in illness.

Malefic: venereal disease. Emotional involvement with a person of inferior station. Unsatisfying work.

**In Aspect with Mars**

Benefic: remunerative work. Easy recovery in health problems. Sudden and painful but transitory illnesses.

Malefic: disputes with subordinates. Health seriously affected. State of painful inflammatory fever. Danger of surgical intervention.

**In Aspect with Jupiter**

Benefic: contentment with serving persons. Favorable for health. Protection in illness caused by Jupiter.

Malefic: liver, digestive troubles. Problems with serving people or subordinates.

**In Aspect with Saturn**

Benefic: success in a commissary post. Chronic health trouble depending on sign occupied.

Malefic: difficult work as subordinate, without advancement. Health greatly affected.



**In Aspect with Uranus**

Benefic: success in Uranian occupations (inventions, electricity and its diverse applications).

Malefic: nervous troubles, spasms. Illnesses difficult to diagnose. Troubles with arterial circulation. Difficulties with subordinates.

**In Aspect with Neptune**

Benefic: conditions of servitude in work. Weak health.

Malefic: psychic illnesses. Neurasthenia, mental troubles. Problems from subordinates.

**MOON IN THE SEVENTH HOUSE****In Aspect with the Sun**

Benefic: rich, fortunate marriage. Success in legal matters, partnerships. Conjugal happiness. Favorable for contracts, engagements.

Malefic: irresolution in plans for marriage or partnership. Opposition to commitments concerning social situation. Strife with superiors. Legal cases lost.

**In Aspect with Mercury**

Benefic: marriage with a person educated in literature or sciences. Business partnerships favored. Literary engagements.

Malefic: conjugal life sown with discord. Lively, talkative, capricious spouse. Unfortunate trials.

**In Aspect with Venus**

Benefic: prosperity in married life. Propitious time for marriage. Productive partnership. Engagements are easy.

Malefic: moral troubles in the home. Unfavorable lunation for stability of marriage or matrimonial plans.

**In Aspect with Mars**

Benefic: completion of a union or mergers. Active, fruitful collaboration. Lawsuits won.

Malefic: misunderstanding and dispute in marriage. Bad time to plan marriage or social engagements. Dangerous enemies. Unsuccessful legal disputes.

**In Aspect with Jupiter**

Benefic: propitious lunation for happy marriage, productive partnership. Success in legal proceedings.

Malefic: wedding plans wrecked. Separation. Loss of lawsuit.

**In Aspect with Saturn**

Benefic: marriage with a person older than the native. Some delays in plans for marriage, partnership, engagements.

Malefic: worries about married life. Bereavement. Obstacles to contracts and engagements. Losses through legal proceedings.

**In Aspect with Uranus**

Benefic: sudden marriage. Contracts made suddenly.

Malefic: sudden break in plans for marriage or for contracts. Sudden strife caused by enemies.

**In Aspect with Neptune**

Benefic: harmonious marriage. Platonic love experienced by spouse.

Malefic: instability in marriage. Two marriages (bigamy, by native or spouse). Changes in contracts, engagements.

**MOON IN THE EIGHTH HOUSE****In Aspect with the Sun**

Benefic: advantageous marriage. Inheritance. Protection from danger to life.

Malefic: danger to vitality. Disappointments in hopes for wealth after bereavement.

**In Aspect with Mercury**

Benefic: financial rewards from spouse or partner. Legacies.

Malefic: financial worries and disappointments from marriage. Loss through litigation or through spouse or partner.

**In Aspect with Venus**

Benefic: acquisition of property through inheritance, partnership or through spouse.

Malefic: disappointments in love. Bereavement. Loss of affection. Unfavorable time for success in love.

**In Aspect with Mars**

Benefic: triumph over difficulties of competition, litigation. Financial acquisition from legacy or partnership, or from spouse.

Malefic: very difficult time. Upset of all plans connected with the Eighth House (financial matters). Violent death.

**In Aspect with Jupiter**

Benefic: happy lunation for financial affairs, either due to spouse, partners or litigation.

Malefic: time opposed to hopes about finances, trials, contracts.

**In Aspect with Saturn**

Benefic: protects vitality; protects from health troubles. Property solidly acquired, in terms of relationship with the Seventh House.

Malefic: financial difficulties at home, or for the spouse. Danger to native's vitality, if there is a connection with the Sixth House, to the spouse's vitality, if linked to the Seventh House.

**In Aspect with Uranus**

Benefic: unexpected acquisition of property; sudden unexpected success in trials, contested wills. Propitious time for psychic experiences.

Malefic: sudden material, physical or psychological ills.

**In Aspect with Neptune**

Benefic: mysterious acquisition. Very propitious time for psychic sciences, development of mediumistic faculties.

Malefic: dangerous lunation for psychic experiences, for equilibrium of health. Frauds caused by partnership.

**MOON IN THE NINTH HOUSE****In Aspect with the Sun**

Benefic: favorable time for trips, development of the intellect, for ambitions, enterprises.

Malefic: problems during travel. Not very favorable lunation for travel.

**In Aspect with Mercury**

Benefic: favorable time for mental activity, for monetary successes that depend on travel. Success from literary or scientific work.

Malefic: variations in directions of thought. Numerous unproductive trips. Dispersion of mental forces.

**In Aspect with Venus**

Benefic: very propitious orientation for religious, philanthropic works. Success in the arts. Pleasant and productive journeys. Marriage in a foreign country or to a foreigner.

Malefic: emotional displeasure during travel. Nothing succeeds.

**In Aspect with Mars**

Benefic: favorable time for enterprises which demand activity, initiative, daring.

Malefic: danger while traveling. Unfavorable time for travel. Strife and clashes due to mental impulsiveness.

**In Aspect with Jupiter**

Benefic: favorable lunation for journeys and for interests that they develop. Evolution in religious, philosophic, or legislative area.

Malefic: bad mental and financial management. Profitless journeys. Legal problems due to erroneous conduct.

**In Aspect with Saturn**

Benefic: favorable time for studies, sciences that demand a calm, meditative mind and foresight.

Malefic: disorder, dangers on journeys during this lunation. Problems from personal mistakes in legal affairs.

**In Aspect with Uranus**

Benefic: sudden journeys required. Propitious month for mystical, scientific research work.

Malefic: annoying disorganized journeys, involving accidents (air or land travel).

**In Aspect with Neptune**

Benefic: gratifications on journeys. Propitious lunation for spiritual faculties (intuition, visions, mediumship).

Malefic: troubles in water journeys. Time of anxiety.

**MOON IN THE TENTH HOUSE****In Aspect with the Sun**

Benefic: very favorable for the development of the career, for honors. Favors from people with high social position. Acquisition of an honorary position.

Malefic: unfavorable period for career. Upset in career. Discredit.

**In Aspect with Mercury**

Benefic: favorable to commercial positions, public and intellectual work.

Malefic: opposition and criticism from adversaries about occupations. Problems, bad luck.

**In Aspect with Venus**

Benefic: favors from superiors. Favorable for Venusian occupations (art, esthetics, fashion trade). Prosperity, feminine influence on career.

Malefic: unfavorable influence of marriage, love affairs on career.

**In Aspect with Mars**

Benefic: great activity in career. Ambitions achieved. Obstacles overcome.

Malefic: strife with authorities in work. Loss of position.

**In Aspect with Jupiter**

Benefic: propitious time for reputation, honors, promotion.

Malefic: loss of reputation. Social reverses.

**In Aspect with Saturn**

Benefic: favorable for positive achievements through patient, persistent labor.

Malefic: upset of social position. Native's actions damage career. Difficult lunation.

**In Aspect with Uranus**

Benefic: sudden change in career, in business. Acquisition of independence in social position.

Malefic: sudden strife and upsets, serious disturbances in business. Stability impossible.

**In Aspect with Neptune**

Benefic: success through mystical work or research. Favorable time for development of spiritual work.

Malefic: trouble from bad management. Unstable position.

**MOON IN THE ELEVENTH HOUSE****In Aspect with the Sun**

Benefic: hopes achieved with support of powerful connections. Friends in high places.

Malefic: disappointment of hopes because of excessive ambition. Troubles from social or friendly relationships which are stronger than the native.

**In Aspect with Mercury**

Benefic: numerous relationships with educated people. Favorable time to make such connections.

Malefic: instability of friendships or support. Disputes, gossip, criticism from friends.

**In Aspect with Venus**

Benefic: help and loyalty from friends, especially if Venus is dignified. Connections with sentimental people, or in artistic circles.

Malefic: damaging insincere connections. No hope should be expected from this house during this lunation.

#### **In Aspect with Mars**

Benefic: favorable for meeting energetic, successful friends. Ambitions, hopes crowned with success.

Malefic: arguments, strife with friends. Impossible to achieve hopes for support.

#### **In Aspect with Jupiter**

Benefic: successful action from rich powerful friends. Propitious time for meeting those who can help, for overtures in that direction.

Malefic: unfounded hope for support unfulfilled. Count only on oneself.

#### **In Aspect with Saturn**

Benefic: solid friendships with older people.

Malefic: be on guard against connections or backers more ego-involved than sincere. Friendships that become spiteful.

#### **In Aspect with Uranus**

Benefic: connections established suddenly with people graced with an original mind. Unexpected support.

Malefic: sudden breaks with friends. Sudden destruction of hopes. Trouble from friends.

#### **In Aspect with Neptune**

Benefic: idealistic friendships in accord with aspirations. Protection.

Malefic: disappointments from disloyal people. Unstable relationships. Betrayals. Attempt nothing governed by this house during this lunation.

## **MOON IN THE TWELFTH HOUSE**

#### **In Aspect with the Sun**

Benefic: favorable for overcoming enemies, for undertaking isolated work.

Malefic: danger and strife with authorities. Threat of imprisonment. Useless effort on projects.

#### **In Aspect with Mercury**

Benefic: propitious lunation for research and investigative work.

Malefic: efforts too diffuse. troubles from criticism, spite, deceit.

#### **In Aspect with Venus**

Benefic: rewards from solitary occupations. Secret emotional relationships. Propitious time for devotional, charitable works.

Malefic: troubles from unhappy loves. Separation. Difficult delivery if Venus governs the Fifth House.

#### **In Aspect with Mars**

Benefic: success in Mars-related work. Domination over difficulties and enemies.

Malefic: dangerous secret enemies. Disloyal friends. Danger of loss of liberty and vitality. Reprehensible actions.

#### **In Aspect with Jupiter**

Benefic: propitious for helpful support in the midst of difficulties. Conversion of enemies into friends.

Malefic: actions from lack of foresight. Obstacles to support. Loss of property (income, speculations).

#### **In Aspect with Saturn**

Benefic: propitious time for solitary, secluded work in rest homes, hospitals, prisons.

Malefic: chronic ills. Reputation injured. Danger of imprisonment. Fatalities. Persistent revenge.

### In Aspect with Uranus

Benefic: works of initiative and research without the expected results. Psychic experiences.

Malefic: cunning machinations by secret enemies. Sudden problems in terms of the house occupied by Aquarius.

### In Aspect with Neptune

Benefic: success in work in psychic research, secret investigations. Private platonic relationships.

Malefic: secret, mysterious matters that bring problems. Betrayals. Dangerous lunation for psychic illnesses.

Although most of these significations are vague and frequently incomplete (probably formulated more by deduction than by observation), Mery's system is valid and useful, especially in natal or annual charts marked by a strong lunar influence (Ascendant in Cancer, for example)—but only if we are not looking for the exact date of aspects.<sup>1</sup> But in my opinion, it is a method of secondary importance, coming after the commoner method, e.g., a planet's place in a house—the cusp corresponding generally to the beginning of the astrological year, the middle of the house to the middle of the year, and the final degrees to the end. Thus the Moon at the end of a house automatically refers to the end of the year, and therefore, the importance of the configurations formed during most of the year under this system must not be exaggerated. Moreover, in the course of this transposition of more than 120°, the Moon naturally forms

<sup>1</sup>Giving examples to demonstrate the exactitude of his method, Mery cites the execution of Doctor Petiot (p. 147-148), a criminal who, profiting from the abnormal conditions under the German occupation, promised to aid people hunted by the Gestapo to escape the country, and who committed 28 murders. Mery does not give the houses in the natal chart, which he uses "without indication of time" (although this chart was already published in *Les Cahiers Astrologique*, #3 of May-June, 1946, p. 132-134). This is one of those cases where the simple division of the arc between the two Returns gives better results, and brings the Moon (in the Ninth House, of the Solar Return) into exact square with Uranus in the annual Eighth House, while his calculations by lunations put it five degrees past this aspect!

benefic and malefic aspects with every other planet, and in my opinion its trine to Saturn becomes negligible if at the moment of the birthday it was in opposition to Saturn.<sup>2</sup>

The major skill in a Solar Return consists in knowing how to obtain the most astrological and predictive judgments from the cosmic moment when it occurred. So preference must undeniably be given to aspects that actually form in the course of the 24 hours following the moment of the Return. The difference in strength between these configurations and those of Mery's system may be compared—retaining all the proportions—to the difference between a solar configuration (e.g., Sun sextile natal Moon) and one formed by the Moon (e.g., Moon sextile natal Sun) in directions. The general principle—"The slower the movement, the more perceptible the effects," also applies here, and Mery's lunar movement is twelve times more rapid.

But it is undeniable that we do not yet know how to examine and evaluate all the existing combinations. When an unanticipated event appears, we can always find the corresponding configurations *a posteriori*; the problem is to interpret them correctly beforehand, not afterwards.

A Solar Return may be compared to a clockwork animated by several movements, of which only the most important require our attention:

1. The movement of the Ascendant, as well as the other annual houses that circle the zodiac in one year.
2. The annual movement of the Sun through the annual houses which enables us to relate zodiacal dates to one house or

<sup>2</sup>It could be asked whether this system is part of a broader method extending to most of the planets, since in certain cases, especially if one planet rules over two successive Solar Returns (e.g., Jupiter, with a Sagittarius Ascendant followed by a Pisces one), some correspondences could be found between times of events and positions of the planets in question.

It could also be asked if in the background of the Solar Return there is not some measure of a day for a month, since very often a strong configuration (e.g., conjunction of Mars and Uranus, or Venus square Saturn), which forms on the sixth day after the birthday, corresponds to the nature of an event in the sixth month. If this is the case, Mery has only glimpsed a part of the problem.

another. Example: a house or planet occupying the middle of Aries is automatically connected in some way with the beginning of April, while the annual movement of the Ascendant could make it correspond to another time of the year.

These two major systems in no way exclude other movements, among them J. Mery's system for locating future events, since a Solar Return is as complex in definition, and as rich in all sorts of significations, as a natal chart.

## CHAPTER 13

### SOME THOUGHTS AND APHORISMS

The biggest problem in the interpretation of a Solar Return is in separating the indications for events which will happen on the physical plane from those which act on the astral, emotional or intellectual plane; because if the native strongly dreams of something, or experiences a new love for someone which is kept concealed for some reason, it is often indicated in the annual chart as clearly as a successful enterprise or a liaison. Here, the place occupied by Neptune is most significant, since it is pre-eminently the psychic planet, but my observations have not revealed a sure and dependable rule which might enable me to say that some element is no longer functioning on a material plane. Since Neptune is a planet of illusion and mirage, its aspects - even benefic ones - and its superimpositions on the angles and planets of the natal chart, always indicate a share of the native's illusions.

However, only a very long personal practice will give the intuition or "feel" for it, encountered in all professions - in the doctor as well as the lawyer - which enables one to discern in each individual case the plane on which a given configuration will exert its influence.

It can be formulated as a principle, that the event which is closest to the native's heart will always be more marked than an equally important one (or more important one) to which he, however, pays no attention.

There are configurations formed by the slow planets which last for years (e.g., the Saturn-Neptune opposition 1936-1937, or the Uranus-Neptune trine in 1938-1944). Logically these configurations will be in all Solar Returns. And they may be considered first and foremost part of the collective domain (national or international), indicating the favorable or unfavorable climate the native lives in during the year. The houses in which these configurations fall in each individual instance indicate in what way the native will be subjected to this climate.

For example, the Neptune-Saturn opposition mentioned above, has been observed many times in the Second and Eighth House of people who suffered especially from the crisis; in the Tenth and Fourth, it indicated impending bankruptcy, etc.

Thus the configurations formed by the slow planets generally reflect the life of the era, and not that of the individual. They do not become really individualized unless the planets which form them were dominant at the moment of birth, and were connected by their presence, by rulership or aspect, with the angles and the most important planets in the Solar Return.

The *Histoire de la Magie* by P. Christian — a work which is considered the point of departure for Onomantic Astrology — devotes an entire chapter to Solar Returns. Many aphorisms therein are taken from tradition — especially Junctin de Florence's *Jugements Astronomiques sur les Nativités*, and consequently are applicable only to the astronomical Solar Returns (the only ones I can consider real). I think it will be interesting to reproduce them here:

411. If the sign of the First House (or Ascendant) passes in the Return into the house where a malefic planet was in the Nativity — it promises a bad year — especially if it is Saturn in a nocturnal annual chart, or Mars in a diurnal one. Danger to the life, illnesses, accusations, disorders.

412. If the sign of the First House passes in the Return into the house where Jupiter was in the Nativity — it promises a favorable year, escape from dangers, justice obtained, the favor of princes and powerful people. Exiles return, captives freed.

413. If the sign of the First House passes in the Return into the house where the Sun was in the Nativity — it promises a lucky year, if the aspects are not unfavorable.

414. If the sign of the First House passes in the Return into the house where Mercury was in the Nativity — it promises a good year for enterprises. But if Mercury is afflicted by aspects, this good forecast is reversed.

416. If the sign of the First House passes in the Return into the house where the Moon was in the Nativity — it promises an alternation of good and bad; a fruitful journey if the Moon is in good aspect.

417. If Saturn in the Return enters into the sign it occupied in the Nativity — it promises adversity, sorrows, dangerous enemies, obstacles in enterprises, instability of fortune. If it receives a square from Mars or Mercury, calumny and loss of property.

418. If Saturn in the Return passes into the sign Jupiter occupied in the Nativity — a good year, inheritance or donations, gifts, unanticipated gains. If Mercury is in bad aspect — adversity, trial, unexpected quarrels.

420. If Saturn in the Return passes into the sign the Sun occupied in the Nativity — it promises litigation, enmities, severing of the ties of affection, betrayal of friends. If the annual horoscope is a diurnal one — gains made with difficulty, donations or presents.

421. If Saturn in the Return passes into the sign occupied by Venus in the Nativity — it promises conjugal quarrels, separation, obstacles in enterprises, adversity, litigation and trials; sometimes danger of poisoning. If the horoscope is feminine, danger of abortion.

422. If Saturn in the Return passes into the sign that Mercury occupied in the Nativity — it promises obstacles in enterprise, disappointment of hopes, enmities.

423. If Saturn in the Return passes into the sign occupied by the Moon in the Nativity — it promises sorrows in marriage,

separation, a break with friends, calumnies, obstacles in enterprises, nervous illness, unexpected fall.

424. If Jupiter in the Return passes into the sign occupied by Saturn in the Nativity—it promises perils on journeys, revolt of subjects against princes, servants against masters, subordinates against leaders; breaking up of societies, alliances and friendships.

425. If Jupiter in the Return re-enters the sign it occupied in the Nativity—a good or bad omen, depending on the sign and the aspects it receives.

426. If Jupiter in the Return passes into the sign occupied by Mars in the Nativity—it promises the enmity of powerful persons, calumnies, reputation attacked, military treachery, dangerous journeys, illness. If it is in the horoscope of a powerful entity, and if the aspects are favorable, the year will be generally prosperous.

427. If Jupiter in the Return passes into the sign occupied by the Sun in the Nativity—it promises a rise in fortune for persons of high birth. For those born to a middle station in life—freedom from pain and cares, useful friendships, beginning or increase of fortune, especially in a diurnal horoscope.

428. If Jupiter in the Return passes into the sign occupied by Venus in the Nativity—it promises a good year according to the native's station, if it receives no malefic aspect.

429. If Jupiter in the Return passes into the sign occupied by Mercury in the Nativity—it promises a prosperous year and gain. If Mercury is in unfavorable aspect—disorder in money matters, accusations, damages.

430. If Jupiter in the Return passes into the sign occupied by the Moon in the Nativity—it promises a favorable year, escape from perils, donations from influential women or persons of dignity. If afflicted—the reverse.

431. If Mars in the Return passes into the sign occupied by Saturn in the Nativity—it promises a bad year, trials, disappointment of hopes, dangerous journeys, illness, unexpected

dangers, loss of property, rebellions against princes, attacks of hatred. If Mars is in Aries or Scorpio, these indications are weakened.<sup>1</sup>

432. If Mars in the Return passes into the sign occupied by Jupiter in the Nativity—it promises a prosperous year for military persons or for those arrayed in public dignity. If it receives a malefic aspect—obstacles in enterprises, adversity. If it is in good aspect in the Nativity and the annual Return—a prosperous and lucrative year.

433. If Mars in the Return re-enters the sign it occupied in the Nativity, and if the horoscope is diurnal—it promises an agitated year, enmities, loss of property. Bad luck for the military. If the horoscope is nocturnal—a prosperous year, as long as Mars is in Aries or Capricorn.

434. If Mars in the Return passes into the sign occupied by the Sun in the Nativity—it promises some dangerous illness, intestinal pains, danger from fire, threat of a fall or some other unexpected wound. Accidents on journeys, argument with military men and the possibility of death if Mars or the Sun is Ruler of the Year. If there is a good aspect, a very prosperous year, in spite of some snares set by enemies.<sup>2</sup>

435. If Mars in the Return passes into the sign Venus occupied in the Nativity—it promises enmity from women, marital quarrels, separations, illness, dangerous adultery, breaking off of friendship, loss of reputation. Great danger of death for pregnant women.

436. If Mars in the Return passes into the sign occupied by Mercury in the Nativity—it promises a year tormented by discord, trials, perils, physical suffering, and especially cerebral illnesses, particularly if Mars is in a bicornoreal sign. If the First House, the Sun, and the Moon are free from malefic aspects—these indications are weakened. If the aspects are bad—adversity and especially loss in business.

<sup>1</sup>Except in feminine charts. A.V.

<sup>2</sup>Ruler of the year should be interpreted in the sense of Ruler of the Ascendant. - A.V.



437. If Mars in the Return passes into the sign occupied by the Moon in the Nativity—it promises a bad year, rebellion against princes, attacks against the great, trials, accusations, snares, ambush. Sorrows in marriage, separation, breaking of friendships, popular disorders. Feverish illness, weakening of the memory or vision, threat of wound by iron or fire, threat of drowning. If the Moon is increasing, and afflicted by evil aspects, these indications are more fearful. If the Moon receives only fortunate aspects, these indications are attenuated. If it is a feminine horoscope—great danger for pregnant women, threat of some fatal operation.

445. If Venus in the Return passes into the sign occupied by Saturn in the Nativity—it promises a bad year. Conjugal discord, separations, loss of reputation, enmities, scandalous love affairs that inflict public disgrace. Obstacles in enterprises. Intestinal ills, secret and shameful illnesses. Threat of poisoning, especially if Mars and Mercury are in quadrature or opposition to Venus.

446. If Venus in the Return passes into the sign occupied by Mars in the Nativity—it promises a tormented year, discord, trial, sorrow in the home, separations. Danger of seduction for girls. Dangerous adulteries. Treachery or false friends.

448. If Venus in the Return passes into the sign occupied by the Sun in the Nativity—it promises a good year.

449. If Venus in the Return re-enters the sign it occupied in the Nativity, especially if it is ruler of the year—it promises a prosperous year; but if it receives a square or opposition from Saturn or Mars, or if it is without dignities, or if it is in the Twelfth or Sixth, jealousy, injustice, peril to life. Threat of rebellion against princes.

450. If Venus in the Return passes into the sign occupied by Mercury in the Nativity—it promises a favorable year for success of enterprises. Liberality and donations; business profits, if the aspects are benefic. In the opposite case—afflictions.

451. If Venus in the Return passes into the sign occupied by

the Moon in the Nativity—it promises a favorable year for success of enterprises, but a year torn by the effects of envy and by enmities which will, however, wear themselves out or be overcome.

453. If Mercury in the Return passes into the sign occupied by Jupiter in the Nativity—it promises a prosperous year especially for business enterprises.

454. If Mercury in the Return passes into the sign occupied by Mars in the Nativity—it promises enmities, trials, loss of property, treachery. The native will be victim of disloyal inclinations and malicious instincts, which could place him in danger of death.

459. If the Moon in the Return passes into the sign occupied by Saturn in the Nativity—it promises a year burdened with vicissitudes, many enemies, obstacles in enterprises, instability of position. Illness of the head or intestines, which puts the native in danger of death, especially if the Moon is occidental. If it is oriental, the danger will be less.

460. If the Moon in the Return passes into the sign occupied by Jupiter in the Nativity—it promises a rise in fortune, useful friendships, happy marriages, achievement of wishes, if there is no malefic aspect.

461. If the Moon in the Return passes into the sign occupied by Mars in the Nativity, especially if it is oriental, it promises a difficult year, danger of spilt blood, a fall or wound by fire. Domestic discords; sorrows in marriage, separation. Rebellion of the people against princes.

462. If the Moon in the Return passes into the sign occupied by Sun in the Nativity—it promises hindrance in enterprises, disappointment of hopes, domestic discords, little happiness in marriage.<sup>3</sup>

463. If the Moon in the Return passes into the sign occupied by Venus in the Nativity—it promises a good year, but if

<sup>3</sup>In other words, the conjunction of the luminaries is equally unfavorable in an annual chart as in a natal chart. See my *Lunar Astrology* on this subject.

it is in unfavorable aspect—sorrows, illness, loss of property or position, cruel jealousy in marriage, hatreds in the family, especially in women's horoscopes.

464. If the Moon in the Return passes into the sign occupied by Mercury in the Nativity—it promises a good year for enterprises; but if it is afflicted with evil aspects—discord, trials, disorder in enterprises, loss of property. If Mercury is in Gemini or Virgo—luck in Business. If it is in any other sign—threat of death.

465. If the Moon in the Return re-enters the sign it occupied in the Nativity—it promises obstacles in enterprises, powerful enemies—especially on the part of women or of the common people. Dangerous year for princes and the great. If the Moon is afflicted by evil aspect—unexpected perils—especially if it is ruler of the year. If it is in good aspect, these indications are attenuated.

467. If the sign of the First House passes in the Return into the house Mars occupied in the Nativity, and if Mars is in conjunction, square, or opposition with this sign—it promises wounds by fire or iron, captivity, exile—especially if Mars occupies a Cardinal point (I, IV, VII, X) or a succedent house (II, V, VIII, XI).<sup>4</sup>

468. If the sign of the First House passes in the Return into the House occupied by Saturn or Mars in the Nativity, and one or the other of these malefic planets moves to occupy the First House—it promises great danger.<sup>5</sup>

469. If the sign of the First House takes the place in the Return of the sign of the Second House in the Nativity, and if Venus is the Ruler of the year, Saturn occupies the Fourth House, and the First House of the Return corresponds to the Eighth House—it promises captivity.

<sup>4</sup>Sign of the First House should be read as Ascendant.

<sup>5</sup>In other words, if the annual Ascendant is superimposed on a natal malefic, while a malefic in the S.R. is on the natal Ascendant.

472. If the sign of the First House replaces in the Return the sign that occupied the Twelfth House of the Nativity, this sign being the throne of Jupiter<sup>6</sup>, with Saturn occupying it, with Mars in the Fourth—it promises mortal danger.

473. If the sign of the First House falls in the Return in the Houses I, II, IV, V, VII, IX, X, XI; and the Ruler of the year falls in III, VI, VIII, or XII, or if the sign of the First House falls in the III, or XI—it promises a balance of good and evil in this year, and an opportunity of triumphing over evil fortune by a heroic effort of intelligence and will power.

474. If Mars or the Moon in the Nativity and the Return are in the Eleventh—it promises friends that are not very reliable.

475. If the Ruler of the (natal) Eleventh is in the Twelfth of the Return, it promises betrayal of friends.

476. If Saturn is Ruler of the Eleventh or Twelfth in the Return—unfaithful or fickle friends.

477. If Jupiter is Ruler of the Tenth in the Nativity, and is in quadrature or opposition to the Sun in the Return—the native's position and honor will collapse within the year.

478. If the Ruler of the Year is unfortunate in the Nativity and in the Return—anxiety, obstacles, disappointments in that year.

480. If the Ruler of the Tenth (Nativity) is in the Seventh, Eighth or Twelfth of the Return—a difficult year, out of favor with princes or other people of great dignity.

481. If the Ruler of the year was in a cadent house (III, VI, IX, XII) in the Nativity, and if in the Return it passes into the Sixth or Eighth, if it is Saturn—threat of ruin of fortune, loss of dignity or employment in that year.

482. If Saturn or Mars in the Tenth House are not Rulers of the year (Return), and are not in sextile or trine with the other planets—a bad year, the future is threatened with ruin.

<sup>6</sup>Since Jupiter governs Pisces, the original sign of the Twelfth House. . A.V.

483. If the Ruler of the First House (Nativity passes into the Second (Return), and if it is Saturn or Mars, threat of loss of property.

484. If the Ruler of the year is on a cardinal point (I, IV, VII, X) in quadrature or opposition to Saturn or Mars, and if in the Nativity it was in conjunction with the same malefic planet—a very bad year, threat of great loss, grief, catastrophe.

485. If the Ruler of the year is occidental or in the Seventh or the Twelfth, in evil aspect with Saturn or Mars, if Jupiter is not in good aspect with the Moon, and with the Ruler of the year—danger of loss of property.

486. If the Ruler of the year, the First House of the Return and the Moon are in conjunction, square or opposition with a malefic or afflicted planet—danger of ruin for the greatest fortunes. But if Jupiter or Venus are conjunct the Moon or the Ruler of the year, this evil indication will be neutralized.

487. If the First House of the Return, its Ruler, and the Moon are in conjunction, square or opposition with Saturn or Mars—danger of ruin and great distress.

488. Jupiter in the Sixth or Twelfth (Nativity and Return) promises powerful enemies, persecution from envy or hatred, which will be unsuccessful.

489. Mercury, in opposition to the Seventh, will paralyze the machinations of enemies.

490. Mercury in the Twelfth (Nativity and Return) will expose the machinations and snares of enemies.

491. Mars in the First, in evil aspect with the Moon and the Ruler of the year, makes enemies stronger. But if it is in a fortunate house of Jupiter it gives strength against enemies.

493. If the Ruler of the Twelfth (Nativity) passes into the First (Return)—numerous and formidable enemies. If it passes into the Eighth—danger of murder by enemies. If it passes into the Eleventh—few friends and many enemies.

494. If the Ruler of the First House (Nativity) passes into

the Twelfth (Return), and if it is fortunate—defeat of enemies. If it is afflicted by aspects—enemies will triumph.

495. If the First House (Return), its Ruler, and the Moon are in evil aspect with Saturn or Mars—power is in the hands of enemies.

496. If there is a solar or lunar eclipse in the First or Tenth Houses of the Return, and if the Rulers of these houses are united to the sign of the eclipse—enemies will triumph.<sup>7</sup>

497. If Capricorn is in the Twelfth and Aquarius in the First (Return)—hidden enemies are no longer dangerous. If Capricorn or Aquarius are in the Twelfth and Saturn in the Seventh—secret enemies will become open enemies.

498. Saturn in the First, Sixth, Seventh or Eighth promises implacable enemies.

499. If Jupiter in the Return occupies the sign where Saturn was at birth—it promises instability in alliances, severing of ties of friendship.

500. Mars in the First (Return)—dangerous enemies. In the Seventh—disputes and trials.

501. The Sun in the Seventh (Nativity and Return)—support of friends. In the Twelfth (Return), and afflicted by a malefic aspect—secret enemies who can do much harm.

502. Venus, Jupiter, or another favorable planet in the Twelfth (Return) promises superiority of enemies.

503. Mercury in the Seventh (Nativity and Return)—much evil from cunning and treacherous enemies.

504. The Moon in a masculine sign (Return) and in square or opposition with Saturn and Mars, and if the Ruler of the

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<sup>7</sup>I must add that, if the Solar Return coincides with the moment of the eclipse, the astrologer should be careful in his judgments, because the eclipse (especially solar) afflicts the annual chart to such an extent that good indications will not come true. If the eclipse occurs in the Ascendant, it should be considered a very bad sign, not only for the significations of the natal house, but also for the native's health. Of course, my observations have been made on the basis of a very limited number of cases (four solar eclipses), but this number is sufficient to observe its unfavorable effect.

house it occupies is malefic—promises powerful enemies from whom anything must be feared.

505. The Ruler of the year in the Seventh or Twelfth, and occidental, in evil aspect with Saturn or Mars, with Jupiter not in aspect with the Moon or the Ruler of the year—loss of property or position through the workings of powerful and implacable enemies.

506. The Ruler of the year under the rays of the Sun promises dangerous activity of enemies.

507. If the Ruler of the year is a benefic planet, if it is in opposition with Mars, and squaring the Moon or Sun, if the Ruler of the First is without aspect to its own house, great perils created by enemies.

508. The Ruler of the Eleventh (Nativity) passing into the Twelfth (Return) promises a change of friends or enemies.

509. If the Ruler of the First is in the Twelfth (Return)—it promises numerous enemies, great tribulations, captivity.

510. If the Dragon's Tail occupies the First House (Return)—danger of falling into hands of enemies, and need for flight.

511. If the Sign of the Sixth or Twelfth Houses (Nativity) passes into the First (Return)—friends will turn into enemies.

512. If the Fourth and Seventh Houses and their Rulers are afflicted (in the Return) by malefic aspects—many evils will be inflicted by enemies.

513. Jupiter and Venus in conjunction with the Moon, or with the Ruler of the year (Return)—will deliver the native from the power of his enemies.

514. Jupiter in the Third (Nativity and Return) preserves him from all fatal dangers.

516. The Ruler of the year in good aspect (Nativity and Return)—frees him from danger.

517. Saturn in the First (Return)—threat of captivity, serious wound, and even death.

518. If Saturn, Ruler of the year, is beneath the horizon of the horoscope (Return), if it is in conjunction with Mars, or if Mars is in the sign Saturn occupied in the birth chart; if the ruler of the First House (Return) is in the Seventh, and if Jupiter and Venus are in cadent houses (III, VI, IX, XII)—imminent threat of captivity.

520. If Saturn (Nativity and Return) is in the Twelfth—danger of very great misfortune, or of dangerous wound.

521. If Saturn (in the Return) ruler of the First, is in the Twelfth, without aspect from the Sun—threat of captivity.

522. Saturn in the Sixth (Nativity and Return)—dangers and captivity.

523. Jupiter in Capricorn (Return), afflicted by Saturn, and the Sun at the same time afflicted by Mars—promises great misfortune.

524. Jupiter, Ruler of the year, and under the rays of the Sun—promises humiliation and distress.

525. If Mars is Ruler of the year, and if Saturn in the Return occupies the sign where Mars was at birth; and if Mars in the Return occupies a cardinal point (I, IV, VII, X) or a succedent house (II, V, VIII, XI), and is above Venus; and if the benefic planets are in cadent houses—bad year, danger of captivity.

526. If Mars, Ruler of the year, is in the First (Return), in a sign where it has no dignities, and especially if it occupied the First in the Nativity or cast a square or opposition to that house—danger of captivity.

527. Mars in the Fourth (Nativity and Return)—threat of captivity, loss of reputation, dangers. If Mars is in the Twelfth (Return), but occupied another house in the Nativity—danger of some sinister and unforeseen accident.

529. Mars passing in the Return into the sign the Sun occupied at birth, will in that year unleash danger of violent death if there was a danger of it in the Nativity, or it will cause an illness which could become fatal.

530. Mars in the Tenth (Return) threatens a fall, or a wound from a fourfooted animal.

531. If Mars in the Return passes into the sign Saturn occupied at birth—it promises a very dangerous year and unexpected dangers.

532. If the Sun is in square or opposition to Mars (Return)—danger of a fall.

533. The Sun in the Twelfth (Nativity and Return)—danger of captivity.

534. Venus Ruler of the year, in the Via Combusta (i.e., from 18° Gemini up to and including 3° Cancer, and from 24° Sagittarius up to and including 2° Capricorn)<sup>8</sup> promises humiliations which will be caused by women.

535. Mercury, Ruler of the year, in the Via Combusta—promises anxieties, tribulation, adversity, losses in business.

536. The Moon (Return) united to Cancer, and the Sun united to Aries, both being afflicted by malefic aspects from Saturn or Mars—promises danger of blinding or a fall, or of a wound by a fourfooted animal.

537. If the Moon in the Return passes into the sign Mars occupied at birth—it promises a difficult year, especially if the Moon is rising and if the annual horoscope is diurnal. Many dangers; danger of being wounded by a fall or by iron. For princes—fearful rebellions, insurrections. Explosions of domestic hatreds, accusations.

538. If the Moon (Return) is in a masculine sign, and in evil aspect with Saturn and Mars, and if Saturn or Mars rules the sign occupied by the Moon—great adversity, grave dangers.

539. If the Moon is in the Seventh (Nativity and Return)—adversity, enmities and dangers.

540. If the Ruler of the year was a benefic planet in the

<sup>8</sup>Note that the Viae Combustae differ noticeably from those of world tradition which generally places them between 18° and 30° Gemini and between 13° Libra and 13° Scorpio. — A.V.

Nativity, and if it is a malefic planet in the Return, and if the Moon is afflicted with an evil aspect—danger of a fatal assault, or of a very serious wound at the hands of enemies. Danger of amputation.

541. If the Ruler of the year is in the Sixth (Nativity and Return) and if it is afflicted by an evil aspect—danger of great misfortune.

542. If in the Nativity and in the Return, the Ruler of the year occupies a cardinal point (I, IV, VII, X) and is in square or opposition to Saturn or Mars—great adversity.

543. If the Ruler of the year, afflicted by a malefic aspect, is in the Second, Sixth, Eighth or Twelfth (Return) danger of some calamity which no one can foresee.

544. If the Ruler of the year is in the Seventh, afflicted by a malefic aspect, threat of dangerous fall, or danger which forces the native to leave the country.

545. If the Ruler of the year is afflicted by a malefic aspect from a planet located on a cardinal point, making a square or opposition to it—danger of great adversity, great grief, great perils. If the hostile planet is in a cadent house, the indication is weakened.

546. If the Ruler of the year is without dignity, and the ruler of the First House (Nativity) is in the Via Combusta, and if the Sun and Moon are also afflicted—danger of suicide, or danger of committing an action that will be punished by death. But if benefic planets are in favorable aspect with the Ruler of the year—these dangers will not materialize.

547. If the Ruler of the year is in square or opposition with the First House—a bad year. If it is in sextile or trine—a favorable year.

548. If the Ruler of the year is a malefic planet, if it occupied the Seventh House in the Nativity; if in the Return it afflicts the Moon with an unfavorable aspect, and if it occupies the First House, or if another malefic planet occupies this house—it is a sign of very great dangers.

549. If the Ruler of the year is a benefic planet, and if there is a malefic planet in the First House of the Return, and another in the Seventh, and if one or the other afflicts the Moon with an unfavorable aspect—it is a promise of very serious dangers created by enemies—especially if the First receives no favorable aspect.

550. If the Ruler of the year occupied a cadent house in the Nativity (III, VI, IX, XII) near the sun, and if in the Return it is in the Sixth, Eighth or Twelfth, and again near the Sun, and in conjunction with Saturn—there is a danger of extreme catastrophe.

551. If the Ruler of the year is benefic, but if in the Return it occupies an unfortunate house (VI, VIII, or XII), and if Saturn or Mars are in the First or the Tenth—it promises victory for enemies, wound by iron, or a fall.

552. If the Ruler of the year is malefic, if in the Return it is in the Via Combusta or in an unfortunate house, and if the Moon is in unfavorable aspect with Saturn or Mars, and if the Ruler of the year is in the Sixth or Twelfth—danger of captivity.

553. If the Ruler of the year is benefic, but afflicted by evil aspects (Nativity and Return)—danger of opposition and captivity.

554. If the Ruler of the First (Return) is in the Fourth, Seventh or Tenth, and afflicted with malefic aspects—danger of assault by subjects on the persons of princes, or by servant against masters, depending on the native's condition.

555. If the Ruler of the First House (Return) is in the Eighth (danger to the life.)

556. The Ruler of the First House (Return) in conjunction with the Dragon's Tail—danger of poisoning which will be escaped.

557. Saturn or Mars in the First (Return) always promises a bad year, especially if in unfavorable aspect with the Ruler of the year or with the Moon.

558. If of the two malefic planets, one is in the First (Return) and the other was in the First in the Nativity—it is a promise of a very difficult year.

559. If a malefic planet is in the First (Return), and if another afflicts the Moon or one of the cardinal points (I, IV, VII, X) of the Nativity—the year will be very painful.

560. If in the Return a malefic planet is in quadrature to the First House, and if the Ruler of the First is in favorable aspect with a benefic planet and with the First House—the indications of the malefic planet will be weakened.

561. If a malefic planet was in aspect with a benefic planet in the Nativity, and if in the Return it is in conjunction, square or opposition with the same planet—it threatens a fatal blow inflicted by iron.

562. If a malefic planet is in the Fourth (Return)—it promises obstacles in enterprises, and dangers.

563. If the First House (Return) contains a sign which was linked with a malefic planet in the Nativity—danger of reversal of fortune and exile.

564. If the First House (Return) is the same as that of the Nativity if the Sun is in eclipse or if the Moon is decreasing, and if one or the other are in evil aspect with Saturn—danger of insurrection against princes.

565. If a malefic planet is in the First House with the Ruler of the year, and afflicts the Moon with an unfavorable aspect—it is the sign of grave dangers in that year.

566. If the sign of the Tenth House of the Nativity passes into the First House of the Return—it promises a fortunate year for enterprises. If it is afflicted there—the opposite. In the Second (Return)—good luck, benevolence of princes and people in high places. If it is afflicted—the opposite. In the Third (Return)—middling luck, more bad than good. In the Fourth (Return)—adversity, discord with parents, disgrace with princes and people in high places. In the Fifth (Return)—inclination to licentiousness and dangerous consequences. In the Sixth

(Return)—good time for enterprises, but threat of some scandalous revelation, and loss of reputation. In the Seventh (Return)—good fame, good hope of success. Love of a woman of high degree. Mourning in the family. In the Eighth (Return)—anxieties, reputation threatened, difficulties in enterprises, fortune in abeyance. In the Ninth (Return)—long journeys, fortunate or not, depending on the aspects; bonds of friendship, good or bad depending on the aspects. In the Tenth (Return)—fortunate year, if the aspects are very favorable. In the Eleventh (Return)—a good year, if the aspects do not contradict it. In the Twelfth (Return)—disgrace with princes and people in high places, loss of property, persecution by envy and malice; loss of friends.<sup>9</sup>

567. If the sign of the Luck of Fortune<sup>10</sup> passes from the Nativity into the First House of the Return—it is favorable for enterprises. In the Second (Return)—a good year and profit. A good sign for devoting oneself to business. In the Third (Return)—profit from brothers or relatives. In the Fourth (Return)—good luck with material interests. In the Fifth House—good luck with love, creative work, practice of medicine. In the Sixth (Return)—chance of gain. In the Seventh (Return)—legal victories, triumph over enemies. In the Eighth (Return)—threat of some loss by theft or otherwise. Bad year for loaning money with security. In the Ninth (Return)—profitable voyages, if the Nativity indicated it. Fortune acquired from a distance. Sign of elevation in dignity for those in the priesthood. In the Tenth (Return)—favor of princes and those in high places, profit in enterprises, realization of hopes. In the Eleventh (Return)—property or elevation procured by friends, support or benefactors. Success in enterprises, good year for regaining possession of money loaned, or for gaining some favor from princes and people in high places. In the Twelfth (Return)—favorable year for acquiring illicit earnings, or for profiting from concealed evil actions.

<sup>9</sup>This aphorism, as it were, fills out our chapter on the "Significance of the Orientation of the Annual Midheaven."—A.V.

<sup>10</sup>Part of Fortune.

568. If the First House, its ruler, and the Moon are afflicted by malefic aspects in the Return—it promises financial catastrophe in the year governed by the annual horoscope.

This series of aphorisms could be completed by the addition of many others, for example, one of Haly's which states that:

"When in a Solar Return chart, the ruler of the Third is in the Tenth a brother will die that year, because the Tenth is the Eighth from the Third."

But I would like to conclude these quotations with the observations of H. Gouchon and J. Reverchon, noted in the *Dictionnaire Astrologique* (Vol. II, p. 158, et sq.), because these two authors are too careful and too scientific to affirm something which had not been verified with some certainty. What, in my opinion, are their most interesting observations, may be reproduced as follows:

1. When the Moon is in conjunction or opposition with the Sun, the Solar Return indicates a remarkable year.
2. It is reasonable to think that a Solar Return deserves more attention if it occurs during important transits;
3. Never consider a Solar Return in isolation. Compare it with transits and even with the Solar Returns preceding it and following it to estimate the increasing and decreasing influences of the important planets. This follows naturally from the fairly regular astronomical relationships which exist between two successive Solar Returns. The comparison of two successive Solar Returns enables us to follow the development of a matter from one year to the other. If, in an annual chart, an afflicted planet or a malefic in the Seventh promises a trial and if, in the chart for the following year, it is in the Fourth, we can immediately see the indication of the end of the trial, and so forth;
4. Notice if, from one Solar Return to the next, a superior planet passes from direct movement to retrograde, or the reverse—these two details indicate a change in the influence of the planet involved; the first case is usually unfavorable.

5. Mercury, Venus and Mars acquire a certain importance if they are retrograde in the Solar Return. (For the first two planets, the retrogradation does not have a malevolent character, more likely the opposite.)

6. The superior planets in the angles of the Solar Return have the most effect. The angles are, in order of strength: I, X, VII, IV (following the daily movement).

We should conclude these notes by recommending great care in interpretation so as not to transform every configuration into an indicator of a significant event. Solar Returns generally reflect all the events of the year and there is often a temptation to accentuate one or another configuration. You must always take into account the native's status, his possibilities and his way of life in order to avoid predicting improbable events.

With a simple worker whose existence is divided between his office and his garden, a Solar Return indicated an important professional change with several configurations: all the progressions indicated two time spans separated by two months. No personal change occurred, but in the first of these time spans, his boss resigned, and the second exactly coincided with the arrival of a new boss.

May this preserve beginners from exaggerated judgments.

## CHAPTER 14

### THE SEVEN PLANETARY PERIODS

Junctin de Florence— one of the most celebrated astrologers of the Sixteenth Century, chaplain to Francois de Valois, last brother of King Henry III of France, and favorite of Catherine de Medicis— has left us a complete treatment of the Solar Return as it was used in his time. I did not know of this book when I published the first two editions of my book in French. He mentions the division of the individual astrological year into seven planetary periods of unequal duration. He was profoundly versed in the astrological literature— especially the Arabic authors— so it is certain that he did not invent this division himself, but must have found it in an older work which no longer exists, or which has escaped rediscovery for the time being.

As a source he cites Chapter 29 of the Second Book of Firmicus Maternus— but apparently he had a different version from the one which has come down to us, because this brief chapter speaks only— in a very ambiguous manner— of the *chronocraters*, i.e., the rulership of the Sun or the Moon (depending on whether the birth was diurnal or nocturnal) on the first 10 years and 9 months of life and of the subsequent attribution of 30 months to Saturn, 12 to Jupiter, 15 to Mars, 19 to the Sun, 8 to Venus, 20 to Mercury and then 25 months to the Moon. In Firmicus there is no mention of a similar use of the chronocraters in the Solar Return.



In any case, for a year, Junctin de Florence gives:

- 85 days to Saturn,
- 30 days to Jupiter,
- 36 days to Mars,
- 53 days to the Sun,
- 33 days to Venus,
- 57 days to Mercury,
- 71 days to the Moon,

which does not seem to be an application of the principle of chronocraters reduced to the dimensions of the Solar Return, since the shortest period of the year here belongs to Jupiter, while in Firmicus it was the Venusian period; there the Martian period was exactly half of Saturn's, which is not the case in Junctin. The only common point—and it is significant—is the immutable order of the succession of the planets: Saturn-Jupiter-Mars-Sun-Venus-Mercury-Moon—an order clearly based on the daily speed of the apparent movement of the planets.

A verification spanning nearly ten years, at first out of curiosity and with a great deal of scepticism, and methodically later on, enables me to say that there is a good deal of truth in Junctin's seven planetary periods *assuming that they begin with the period of the planet ruling the Ascendant of the Solar Return*, and continue in the order indicated so that Jupiter's period always follows Saturn's and precedes that of Mars.

As an example, let us use the Solar Return in the first chapter. Since the Ascendant is in Gemini, the first planetary period is Mercury's, beginning with the birthday and continuing from January 14 to March 11, followed by Saturn's period of 85 days, and so forth. The Mother's death took place on May 22, and Saturn was ruler of the Eighth annual House and was in the Tenth House—traditionally that of the mother.

In about seven cases out of ten, the beginning of the planetary period is marked by an event—generally an insignificant one—characteristic of the ruling planet. But throughout the period, features very characteristic belonging to Mercury, located in the Ninth House conjunct the Midheaven—was

marked by some short business trips (to exhibit jewelry), trips that ceased during the lunar period due to the mother's illness (naturally symbolized by the Moon).

Any chart will demonstrate the validity of these periods. H.P. Blavatsky created the Theosophical Society during the Venusian period and Venus was the first planet occupying the Tenth House of her Solar Return. She died during the Mars period, and it was Mars who ruled most of the Eighth House and occupies the Fourth (of the "end of matters," here, of life) at the moment of her birthday.

The fact that we are unaware of the reasons determining the creation of these planetary periods of different duration for each planet should not prevent us from putting them to good use.

## SOLAR RETURNS OF DEATH

During the Nineteenth Century nearly all the sciences went through a period of enthusiasm for statistics. This fashion came later in Astrology, and not until now have a few timid voices been raised against this practice, although in medicine (which resembles Astrology in many ways), the voice of Claude Bernard made itself heard more than a century ago. In his *Introduction to the Study of Experimental Medicine*, (Paris, 1865), he stated that the use of averages and the application of statistics to medicine and psychology "lead automatically to error."

Elsewhere, Bernard made it clear that *he did not reject the use of statistics in medicine, but that he reproached investigators for being incapable of going beyond them, for believing that statistics should serve as the basis of medical science.* His idea was to apply the principles of experimental method to medicine so that, rather than remaining a conjectural science based on statistics, it could become an exact science based on experimental determination.

Bernard's opinion is highly relevant to Astrology, and I took pains to quote it before discussing the results of the statistics made by L. Lasson on 360 Solar Returns preceding death.<sup>1</sup>

The statistics cover:

- a) The location of the Sun in the annual Eighth House;

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<sup>1</sup>"L'Intérêt des Révolutions Solaires" in *Le Grand Nostradamus*, #15.

- b) The presence of the natal Ascendant in the annual Eighth House;
- c) The presence of the annual Ascendant in the natal Eighth House;
- d) The return of the annual Ascendant to its natal place;
- e) Opposition between the two Ascendants.

Let L. Lasson speak for himself:

"The expected average for each house was 30 cases of 360. We found:

- |   |                                |
|---|--------------------------------|
| 1. Sun in the Return Eighth:                                      | 38 instances or 27% above avg. |
| 2. Radical Ascendant in the<br>Return Eighth:                     | 31 instances or 3% above avg.  |
| 3. Return Ascendant in<br>radical Eighth:                         | 32 instances or 7% above avg.  |
| 4. Return Ascendant on radical<br>Asc. (within 15°)               | 38 instances or 27% above avg. |
| 5. Return Ascendant in opposition to radical<br>Asc. (within 15°) | 25 instances or 17% below avg. |

"In the interest of truth, we must also mention that a detailed analysis of these statistics—which were drawn up in geometric form, rendering all the nuances of the results more visible—revealed a clearer verification.

For the first three statistics, the accumulation of cases was especially marked in the area of the cusp of the Eighth House (area of maximum intensity). If we consider only the first half of this house (expected average—15 instances) the results will be

- 1. 21 instances or 40% above average
- 2. 19 instances or 27% above average
- 3. 18 instances or 20% above average.

For the last two statistics, the accumulation of instances was even more astonishing, due to the opposition they brought out between violent and natural deaths.

The instances of violent death show a remarkable accumulation in the instances where the Return Ascendant falls

on the natal Ascendant (within 15°) the average here is exceeded by 60%. Contrariwise, the instances where the Return Ascendant is on the cusp of the Seventh (opposed to natal Ascendant) are very rare—40% less than average.

The instances of natural death show inverse results: 40% less for the Ascendant-Ascendant conjunction; 30% more for the opposition.

These anomalies—which nevertheless prove undeniably *the effect of the relationships between the two domifications*—can be explained as follows:

Violent death is indicated by unfavorable aspects in the natal chart: the return of the houses to their same position excites the latent influences, the opposition of the two domifications impedes them.

Natural death is the result of a good chart, which is strengthened by the return of the same domification and disturbed by an opposed domification."

L. Lasson's interesting discovery is obviously very valuable, but for us the principal merit of these statistics is the objective proof they offer that relationships between annual houses and natal houses form the basis for the interpretation of Solar Returns.

**A FEW WORDS ABOUT  
ASTROLOGICAL MAGIC**

Every science has its utilitarian and practical side, and Astrology is no exception to this rule, although the struggle against evil planetary influences belongs more to the realm of Magic than to that of Astrology (which is probably why the great majority of astrological books overlook it and why numerous astrologers remain perplexed when someone tells them it is useless to know the snares of the future if you do not know how to avoid them).

Tradition most frequently recommends the talismanic art as a means of correcting the astrological chart, but this remedy was especially applied to the natal horoscope, correcting the flaw of planetary influence by wearing an appropriate metal and stone. The principle is simple: the influence of a relatively weak, but unafflicted, planet is reinforced, because if you were to strengthen a planet that casts a number of dissonant aspects, you would inevitably strengthen those aspects. But theory is not enough, and this art is now almost completely lost, in spite of the recent number of works that demonstrate its soundness. In any case, a present method for at least partially combating destiny which is directly derived from the Solar Return.

In this book we have continually emphasized the importance of the orientation of the houses of the annual Ascendant especially in relation to the natal chart. We have also observed that a number of journeys made by Edward VIII while

he was still Prince of Wales were dictated by Astrology (as a remedy, it is far from new, since medieval pilgrimages were prescribed by astrologers – after examination of a horoscope).

Although we can do nothing to prevent the unfortunate configurations formed by the planets, we can reduce the afflictions received by the Ascendant and Midheaven of a Solar Return by changing the place for which it must be cast – in other words, by advising the native to spend the day of his birthday in a place other than where he lives. In the case of an Ascendant in a sign of short ascension, a move of 500 kilometers or even less is often enough to radically modify an annual chart.

Suppose that we have a Solar Return with an Ascendant in Aquarius, on a natal Uranus in the natal Sixth House. It is easy to avoid this explosive configuration either by moving East which would not only move the Ascendant away from this violent superimposition, but would also put it in the natal Seventh, or by moving West to bring the Ascendant into the Fifth natal House.

In this way, really catastrophic annual charts could be avoided, often more or less neutralizing planetary dissonances by making sure that a powerful opposition, for example, does not fall on the meridian or horizon of the Solar Return. All astrological magic consists mainly in deterring and weakening the violent malefic aspects by displacing them as far as possible from the angles, which are the most sensitive points of the horoscopic figure.

The search for the most favorable place to spend the birthday (in other words, for a better annual Ascendant) is comparable to an election, but with this difference: an election is a choice of a good moment for beginning a project or accomplishing an important action; but in the Solar Return, the moment is irrevocably marked by the return of the Sun to its natal place, so it is a matter of displacing the houses in relation to the natal horoscope and the annual planets. (This is usually reasonably limited, since you cannot prescribe a trip to the end of the earth to improve the annual chart.) Like an election, it is a delicate operation, which can only be carried out by an ex-

perienced astrologer, but it is already a great consolation to know we can moderate the shock of the most violent configurations instead of blindly submitting to the burden of the planetary influences.

There is no need of further insistence on this relatively simple technique, which requires only a good table of houses, but no horoscopic factor may be ignored in this search – e.g., the Part of Fortune, or, above all planetary rulerships, since the change of location of the Solar Return generally moves some houses from one sign to another.

In order not to drag out this discussion, I have not given a list of the significations of the rulerships in an annual chart. An experienced astrologer will have no difficulty interpreting them. For beginners I have given a few examples to help them grasp the mechanism of rulerships:

**Ruler of the Second House in the annual First House** (especially in conjunction with the Ascendant) shows the native's desire (and often his effort) to influence and improve his financial situation. With unafflicted benefics, there is good possibility of achieving his desires. With dignified malefics, personal efforts must be great. If the ruler of the Second is Uranus, the native will take unusual financial attitudes, of which he generally has no knowledge at the time of the Return. If it is Mars, some recklessness is to be feared.

**Ruler of the Fifth in the annual First House** often shows a person very much in love, especially if it is Mars, Venus or Uranus, and if the native is not a child or a very old person. In the latter instance, it generally represents the influence exerted on the native or on his life by a much younger person, usually the native's own son or daughter.

**Ruler of the Sixth in the annual First House** exerts an unfavorable influence on health and even on work, unless it is one of the luminaries or benefics, and very well aspected. Mars and Uranus most often indicate sudden but brief discomforts and illnesses (if this is reinforced by other horoscopic indications). If

the ruler of the Sixth is Saturn, it could promise distaste for work and frequent exhaustion.

I have observed this position with Mars in Cancer, by its presence in the fourth sign "reinforcing" its natal position on the cusp of the Fourth House (in Scorpio), during the year of the appearance of sudden troubles from a stomach ulcer.

**Ruler of the Eighth in the annual First House** is one of the signs of a death during the year, especially if it is a malefic. The house governed by this planet in the natal chart almost always designates the person involved: if at the moment of birth it governed the Third House, death threatens the native's brother, sister, or some other person designated by this part of the chart; if it was ruler of the Eighth—the danger is connected with the spouse or partner, etc.

These examples of the influence of the rulerships in a Solar Return have somewhat distracted us from the purpose of this chapter: travel by the native for the day of his Solar Return. One more note must be added on this subject.

The configurations that form during the 24 hours following the astronomical moment of the Return have repercussions on the coming year, so if a move is made, a whole day must be spent in the place chosen in order to become completely and definitely impregnated with the planetary influences operating in that place. This rule is too obvious to require substantiation, but neglecting it may cause some misjudgments.

Like all magical operations, this fight against destiny to make a calculated improvement in the annual chart, obviously poses many moral and religious problems, since it appears to disturb the predestined course of things. Mystics in most parts of the world condemn it openly, and one of the "fathers" of Taoism is categorical on this point: "I would rather that people—while necessarily considering death a difficult thing—would not move (to avoid it) . . ."<sup>1</sup> And Chuang-Tzu (born about 370 B.C.) writes, putting his words on the lips of the dying Tzu-Lai: "Man

is more closely entwined with Yin and Yang than with his own family; if these two forces demand my death and I resist, I will be treated like a rebel."<sup>2</sup> It is very probable that the mystic's passive attitude in the face of destiny is one of the reasons why this astrological practice is still not very common.

<sup>1</sup>Legge, James; *The Sacred Books of China: The Texts of Taoism*, Vol. II.

<sup>2</sup>Cited by Will Durant, *The History of Civilization*, Volume III of the French edition, Paris, 1962, p. 92.

**CONCLUSION**

## CONCLUSION

The Solar Return has been demonstrated to be the most complete system for determining not only the important events, but also the little details of the year which escape the primary, secondary and symbolic directions. Solar Returns enjoyed great prestige among the Renaissance astrologers, and if since then they have been subjected to a very long period of neglect (especially in the English-speaking world) it may have been due to lack of thorough explanations of them. I dare hope that this text will make their use more widespread.

In pursuing a practical aim, this book has bypassed all the philosophical, esoteric, and even symbolic questions that this system raises. These questions are not unimportant, but they are not part of the *Technique of Solar Returns*.

An example may show the extent of the penetration of this system.

Not only in Christian lands, but also in many others (Turkey and Iran, for example) there is a belief that the age of 33 will be fortunate or unfortunate. In France, as in other Christian countries, the explanation is that Christ died at 33, which has profoundly influenced popular imagination—but in Islamic countries? It certainly is not the fact that the temple of Solomon—the Moslems' greatest magician—was destroyed after 33 years. Here as in many other places, Astrology supplies the explanation.

The real basis for this belief is that at the end of the cycle of 33 years, the Sun returns at the same day and to the same minute of longitude, so that if the native is in his place of birth, his Solar Return will have the orientation as in the natal chart.



This solar cycle of 33 years, which plays a great role in the orientation of the annual chart, also seems to be connected with the 33 cupules surrounding the largest central cavity on a table of offerings, discovered at the temple palace of Mallia, in Crete; with the 33 days during which manna rained from heaven; the 33 cantos of Dante, the 33 degrees of Free-Masonry, the 33 atmospheric gods in the Books of Zend, the 33 divinities invoked in the songs of the Rig-Veda, with the 33 Arhats in the Buddhist hierarchy, with the 33 apparitional bodies of the Bodhisattva Avalokitesvara which gave rise—almost a thousand years later—to a Japanese pilgrimage to 33 sanctuaries, and with the age of 33 at which Krishna died.

In antiquity, most initiations were made at the vernal equinox (at the moment of the Solar Return, beginning a new year of the world), and no one received the complete revelation before the age of 33, which brought the individual houses to their natal places. As you can see, the expression of “second birth” applied to initiates, corresponded to an astrological reality. In the Islamic tradition, all the blessed living in Paradise are 33 years old, while in Black Africa, the craft of the weaver (the symbolism of which is too well known to need discussion), is made up of 33 distinct segments.

The Ancients, who have spiritualized so many celestial phenomena, beginning with the cycle of the year, represent each of the 33 annual orientations as an individual mystical path of human destiny. These are the 33 mystical roads of the North, which according to the Hindu yogis, conduct the initiate to total illumination and to their Thulé, called the *Outvara Kourou*, the *Tchang daminien* and *Shambala*. Each of these annual orientations is connected with one of the 33 articulated consonants of the Sanskrit alphabet which are the manifestations of the Word.

We could also see an allusion to this cycle in the Jewish feast of Lag B'Omer, the thirty-third day of Omer, which is the accepted date of the death of Rabbi Simeon Bar Yochai, creator of the Kabbala.

The 33 daily strokes of the bell which wake the monks at two in the morning in the most ancient Christian monastery in the world, Saint Catherine of Sinai, 400 kilometers from Cairo, founded in the First Century—do they not speak of the same thing?

A. VOLGUINE.

## FINAL REMARKS AND CLARIFICATIONS

I am writing these few pages not just to show my pleasure at seeing the increasingly widespread acceptance of this technique which I have defended with the stubbornness of youth for half a century against almost universal scepticism, nor is it just to add another chapter to the fifth edition of this book. I am responding to the questions posed by my new readers which have not been clarified until now. Admittedly, I cannot conceal my pleasure at seeing in France, where the number of seriously practicing astrologers is still relatively small, five consecutive printings of a book not written for the general public, over a space of thirty-nine years. And these editions have sold out with increasing rapidity, which is even in these days an uncommon occurrence here. This proves that, if usable and easily proven by its results, a neglected astrological technique must sooner or later be adopted; this is true on the international level if we consider the foreign editions: Dutch, English, Argentine, American, and apparently clandestine: Bulgarian and Russian (in a private edition). This last information was imparted to me by a diplomat from an Eastern European country during his stay at Nice about ten years ago.

It is not the book's increased sale which compels me to add this chapter but letters from readers indicating that most of them read this book hastily and superficially as if they were reading a detective novel on a train. A Belgian reader, for example, wrote to me on August 23, 1975, more than a month after the date of his Solar Return – telling me that he had decided to use the technique of moving from his birthplace and present

residence (apparently to obliterate the effects of Uranus transits squaring his natal Sun and Pluto, and the Return conjunction of Saturn and Mercury over his natal Mercury, with inharmonious aspects to Uranus and Jupiter). He wanted to know if his projected move to Corsica was favorable. I must point out that this reader was not talking about the Solar Return at all, but his natal chart only. Furthermore, I cannot imagine how someone could cast a correct Return for a natal chart with planetary and cusp positions rounded to one or two degrees, as do horoscope merchants in every country, who are loaded down with charts.

It would not be necessary to mention this letter if it were the only one of its kind, but in thirty years, I have received more than a dozen similar letters from people who had, from this book, inferred propaganda in favor of changing the natal chart cusps to match the place of residence. This practice has been recommended by some astrologers, e.g., Sepharial, but never by me. On the contrary, once in an article, after testing this relocation of cusps in the natal chart on twenty or more horoscopes (including all the consequent effects on the Arabian parts and other factors of the horoscope), I came out categorically against this approach. You cannot change the natal chart any more than you can change the lines in your hand by crossing a border or traveling to the southern hemisphere. The sole possibility open is that of changing location for the Return date to escape certain dangerous configurations, especially when they affect the angles, like birds hiding when a great predator is in the sky or like a person staying indoors to wait out a storm.

When I wrote "A Few Words to my New Readers" for the last edition of this book in 1972, I thought it would be meaningful to note the worldwide significance of the New Year, which is apparently a holdover from the very ancient astrological religion, which dates back far beyond whatever written documents have survived to our day. Let me add this to the few examples already given: In the Jewish tradition (which is the source of Christianity and Islam), on the day of Yom Kippur, the fate of human beings and of all living things for the next twelve months is fixed in the heavens! And what Yom Kippur is to

believers, the personal new year is to each of us.<sup>1</sup>

I hope that this insistent repetition will protect me from ever again being misrepresented as advocating the possibility of changing a natal chart.

A much more frequent and unvarying observation made over the decades is that for all practical purposes a great number, perhaps the majority, of my readers stop at the eighth chapter of my book, i.e., they use the "formulas" given, without even looking at the movement of the cusps through the year or the Return progressions. The ever more tiring and hurried pace of modern life forces astrologers, especially professionals, to limit the amount of time allotted to study of a chart. In any case, except for a very few, it is not the real professional who has the passion for research, and who can dedicate himself to thorough study and personal verification of a method, or even who knows our science the best.

Nevertheless, I feel that the following chapters are more important, inasmuch as they cover the projection of the Return chart onto the unfolding of the year as a whole (which constitutes the dynamic part of the interpretation, with the first half of this book providing only the general character). I feel that this is more instructive and potentially more rewarding than the determination of the dominant ambience, just as I feel (perhaps because of the difficulties that it presents) that all Kinetic Astrology is more worthy of interest than the static aspect.

Since personal experience is always more persuasive and convincing than a long argument, I expressly invite my readers to make for themselves a "personal calendar" for at least one or two years. (A professional pressed for time could not do it for a client.) I kept one for six or seven years, and as my observations

<sup>1</sup>Some astrologers still erect annual charts for New Year's Day of the calendar in use (January 1 in Europe and America, the Hegira in Islamic countries, the ancient astrological calendar in the Far East, etc.), cast for the capitol of each country. The persistence of this practice through the ages shows that it must be as meaningful as the more common charts for the ingresses and lunations in Mundane Astrology. Extending the validity of the Yom Kippur chart to include all nations and all living beings is, of course, an unjustified expansion of this procedure due to religious fervor.

became more accurate, I improved the practical format, which finally developed into a large wide notebook like a ledger book, since the school size notebook proved too small.

It would be of no use to describe the first attempts in my twenties, more than fifty years ago, from 1923 to 1929. I will only say that from the first four headings, I eventually arrived at nine, since after two or three years I observed the effect of the intermediate Placidian cusps, for example, weaker than that of the axes, but nonetheless clearly characteristic. This obliged me to add another column. Finally, at the end of this experiment, which was halted by circumstances beyond my control, my "personal calendar" looked like this (beginning, of course, with the date of my Solar Return):

#### ASTROLOGICAL CALENDAR

DATE	MC	ASC	Other Cusps	Lunar Progres- sions	Solar Transits	Other Transits	Other Config- urations	Results & Remarks
March 3								
March 4								
March 5								

The final column was intended, of course, to be filled with the tallying of events, even minimal ones, events conforming to the configurations as well as the ones which apparently did not conform. (The latter were clearly in the minority and could usually be accounted for by planetary combinations which had been neglected.) I should point out that the orb was never greater than half a degree to the angles and the luminaries, unless there were two, three, or more configurations, progressions and transits occurring one after another in a short time, which would indicate an event lasting for several days, or a single event happening in the middle of the period, usually near the date of the strongest configuration.

The observations that can be made daily with this "personal calendar" are so fascinating and instructive that there should be no hesitation about making one. I should mention that at the

end of my experiments, it took hardly more than a day to calculate it, although at the beginning it invariably took much longer. It is true that in our youth we are inclined to work at our vocation twelve hours and more a day!

I have often been tempted to speak of my "personal calendar" in earlier editions of this book, but, before it was published in 1937, the correct application of Solar Returns, as explained here, was not really practiced, and I did not feel it was time yet to discuss all the logical developments, which might discourage more readers because of the complications involved, especially since the sale of the first three editions was slow, 6,000 copies in more than thirty years. I had to let the system become established on its own before going further, weighing it down with less urgent considerations.

Nevertheless, the use of the "personal calendar" automatically resolves some problems, among them the problem of rectification with the Solar Return. I have been asked to write an article about this and have even been reproached for not doing so, but it seemed to obvious to me that I did not feel it needed explanation. But this year an astrologer from across the Alps, with fifteen or twenty years of astrological study and a small following<sup>2</sup> asked me in a letter how to use the Solar Return to rectify a chart, although he had been using Returns for more than a decade. The only explanation is that he had never tried to use the daily movement of the Ascendant, Midheaven, other cusps, or the lunar and other planetary progressions during the 24 hours following the moment of the Return, otherwise he would have quickly noted the repeated disparity of a few days on one side or the other, between the exact moment of the configuration and that of the most likely corresponding effect. Each Solar Return contains at least a good thirty dates for various kinds of events even in a calm, flat, monotonous life with no significant or extraordinary occurrences; and a critical analysis

<sup>2</sup>In every country there are visionaries or the ambitious (often people are both at the same time), who, one or two years after their "discovery" of Astrology, start a group and give lectures or write, generally without realizing that in spite of their good intentions, they most frequently prejudice others against our science.

after the fact will quickly facilitate a general hypothesis as to the necessity of moving the moment of birth ahead or back in time. A comparative analysis of two or, even better, three successive Returns will give absolute certainty, since it excludes the possibility of error in calculation or interpretation. It seems to me that this is worth the extra effort of erecting the Return with care, and then making the "personal calendar" for the whole year, and above all remembering to note regularly the events, not only external ones, but also the interior (soul states, moods, preoccupations, etc.), thus keeping a sort of Astrological "intimate diary."

The methodical practice of this over the years—tremendous work, obviously, but how fertile!—should facilitate the solution of many problems which are still unresolved, e.g., the exact definition of the relationships of the configurations on the day of the Return with the events of the year, and a scientific, even statistical, interpretation of them. In my youth when I kept my "personal calendar," I was interested in the general reconstruction of the practice of Solar Returns which I was working on, and not these really secondary or incidental problems. Over the years, I naturally collected some interesting observations, although they are unfortunately isolated and fragmentary, relative to the connections between the Return day and the year (e.g., a long annoying visit that disturbed the work planned for the thirteenth hour of my personal New Year's Day, corresponding to a health problem which delayed all my plans six months later; or an unexpected pleasant little gift which arrived that day when my Return Midheaven passed over my natal Uranus corresponding to an unexpected foreign contract during the year). But nothing really serious and methodical was carried out. I do not even know if this transposition of simple occurrences of the day to the events of the year might be mere coincidence since I never thought to calculate the percentage. I am equally in the dark as to why certain planetary transits over the intermediate cusps of the Return apparently produce no effect, while others correspond to very characteristic events. These are subjects for patient research for those who want to carry it out.

Everyone who works with this system can make isolated observations related to Solar Returns, but they generally need to be shown in a great number of cases. In principle this means that they must be assembled by a research group, especially since some of them are not up to date and are difficult to collect. I will give two examples:

In a personal letter (already relatively old) a Swiss astrologer, Sergio Bolla, shared his observation that the return of Uranus to its natal place brings a resurgence of vitality if Uranus is strong (I must point out that a good thirty years ago Sergio Bolla adopted the technique of calculating the planetary strengths according to my *RULER OF THE NATIVITY*, abandoning all other methods of finding the dominant. After receiving this letter, without doing any special research on the subject, I noticed that three very old people, two of them over 100, had indeed had a clear increase of vitality and health at 84 years of age, and that death at 83 seems to strike people with a weak Uranus. But without denying the obvious role of the strength of this planet, might we be too hasty in assigning to its operation alone this resurgence of strength at 84? Might this not equally be a result of the return of Jupiter at the same age? Only a more thorough study may tell us. We must always be suspicious of hasty deductions. Such haste is visible in the second example:

Z. Solim informed me at the end of September, 1974<sup>3</sup> that a participant at the ISAR symposium held that month, Jean Brommenac, who for fifteen years has used the technique of changing locations to achieve the most favorable house cusps for the Solar Return, announced that we should carefully cast the chart of the Jupiterian Return. If one of these preceding a Solar Return were unfavorable, it might neutralize a good Solar Return.

This statement was so much more surprising because it is hard to see what relation there could be between the Sun's return to its natal place and Jupiter's return. (This might be explained

<sup>3</sup>See *Les Cahiers Astrologiques*, No. 173, November-December 1974, p. 211.

by J. Brommenac's own chart if he has Jupiter as Ruler of the Nativity.) Not only was this inferred from a very small number of charts, but it automatically raises some calculation problems, since it is hard to imagine the possibility of doing exact Jupiterian Returns with the usual Raphael's or Barth Ephemeris, since house cusps for this chart demand positions of this planet to the nearest second of arc and especially since its movement is slow.<sup>4</sup> If we assume that Jupiter's role depends solely on its position as dominant, then the thorny problem of calculation extends to the swift planets like Mercury and Venus (where one of them is dominant), if they are near their station at birth or at the moment of their return before the Solar Return.

This is a question which must be carefully examined.

This chapter of "Final Remarks and Clarifications" probably gives this book its final form, because, except for some sparse observations on non-genethliacal Solar Returns, I cannot think of anything useful that I would be able to add. Of course, this depends on the Heavens. For my own part, before leaving this life, I have some projects to carry out on other subjects which seem equally important to me.

Spring, 1976

## TABLES

- I. Table of the Sun's movement.
- II. Table of interpolation
- III. Table of Sidereal Times corresponding to days of the year, simplifying calculation of the progressions of the Ascendant.

<sup>4</sup>The practical necessity of calculating all the positions of the horoscope to the nearest second has been repeatedly recommended by some astrologers, for example, H. Selva in the first half of this century.

Table of the Sun's Movement

24h	56'48''	57'12''	57'36''	58'	58'24''	58'48''
rh	2'22''	2'23''	2'24''	2'25''	2'26''	2'27''
1	2 22	2 23	2 24	2 25	2 26	2 27
2	4 44	4 46	4 48	4 50	4 52	4 54
3	7 6	7 9	7 12	7 15	7 18	7 21
4	9 28	9 32	9 36	9 40	9 44	9 48
5	11 50	11 55	12	12 5	12 10	12 15
6	14 12	14 18	14 24	14 30	14 36	14 42
7	16 34	16 41	16 48	16 55	17 2	17 9
8	18 36	19 4	19 12	19 20	19 28	19 36
9	21 18	21 27	21 36	21 45	21 54	22 3
10	23 40	23 50	24	24 10	24 20	24 30
11	26 2	26 13	26 24	26 35	26 46	26 57
12	28 24	28 36	28 48	29	29 12	29 24
13	30 46	30 59	31 12	31 25	31 38	31 51
14	33 8	33 22	33 36	33 50	34 4	34 18
15	35 30	35 45	36	36 15	36 30	36 45
16	37 52	38 8	38 24	38 40	38 56	39 12
17	40 14	40 31	40 48	41 5	41 22	41 39
18	42 36	42 54	43 12	43 30	43 48	44 6
19	44 58	45 17	45 36	45 55	46 14	46 33
20	47 20	47 40	48	48 20	48 40	49
21	49 42	50 3	50 24	50 45	51 6	51 27
22	52 4	52 26	52 48	53 10	53 32	53 54
23	54 26	54 49	55 12	55 35	55 58	56 21
24	56 48	57 12	57 36	58	58 24	58 48
25	59 10	59 35	1	1 0 25	1 0 50	1 1 15
26	1 1 32	1 1 58	1 2 24	1 2 50	1 3 16	1 3 42
27	1 3 54	1 4 21	1 4 48	1 5 15	1 5 42	1 6 9
28	1 6 16	1 6 44	1 7 12	1 7 40	1 8 8	1 8 36
29	1 8 38	1 9 7	1 9 36	1 10 5	1 10 34	1 11 3
30	1 11	1 11 30	1 12	1 12 30	1 13	1 13 30

Table of the Sun's Movement

59'12''	59'36''	1°	1°24''	1°48''	1°1'12''	24h
2'28''	2'29''	2'30''	2'31''	2'32''	2'33''	rh
2 28	2 29	2 30	2 31	2 32	2 33	1
4 56	4 58	5	5 2	5 4	5 6	2
7 24	7 27	7 30	7 33	7 36	7 39	3
9 52	9 56	10	10 4	10 8	10 22	4
12 20	12 25	12 30	12 35	12 40	12 45	5
14 48	14 54	15	15 6	15 12	15 18	6
17 16	17 23	17 30	17 37	17 44	17 51	7
19 44	19 52	20	20 8	20 16	20 24	8
22 12	22 21	22 30	22 39	22 48	22 57	9
24 40	24 50	25	25 10	25 20	25 30	10
27 8	27 19	27 30	27 41	27 52	28 3	11
29 36	29 48	30	30 12	30 24	30 36	12
32 4	32 17	32 30	32 43	32 56	33 9	13
34 32	34 46	35	35 14	35 28	35 42	14
37	37 15	37 30	37 45	38	38 15	15
29 28	39 44	40	40 16	40 32	40 48	16
41 56	42 13	42 30	42 47	43 4	43 21	17
44 24	44 42	45	45 18	45 36	45 54	18
46 52	47 11	47 30	47 49	48 8	48 27	19
49 20	49 40	50	50 20	50 40	51	20
51 48	52 9	52 30	52 51	53 12	53 33	21
54 16	54 38	55	55 22	55 44	56 6	22
56 44	57 7	57 30	57 53	58 16	58 39	23
59 12	59 36	1	1 0 24	1 0 48	1 1 22	24
1 1 40	1 2 5	1 2 30	1 2 55	1 3 20	1 3 45	25
1 4 8	1 4 34	1 5	1 5 26	1 5 52	1 6 18	26
1 6 36	1 7 3	1 7 30	1 7 57	1 8 24	1 8 51	27
1 9 4	1 9 32	1 10	1 10 28	1 10 56	1 11 24	28
1 11 32	1 12 1	1 12 30	1 12 59	1 13 28	1 13 57	29
1 14	1 14 30	1 15	1 15 30	1 16	1 16 30	30

Table of the Sun's Movement

24h	56'48''	57'12''	57'36''	58'	58'24''	58'48''
rh	2'22''	2'23''	2'24''	2'25''	2'26''	2'27''
'	'	'	'	'	'	'
31	1 13 22	1 13 53	1 14 24	1 14 55	1 15 26	1 15 27
32	1 15 44	1 16 16	1 16 48	1 17 20	1 17 52	1 18 24
33	1 18 6	1 18 39	1 19 12	1 19 45	1 20 18	1 20 51
34	1 20 28	1 21 2	1 21 36	1 22 10	1 22 44	1 23 18
35	1 22 50	1 23 25	1 24	1 24 35	1 25 10	1 25 45
36	1 25 19	1 25 48	1 26 24	1 27	1 27 36	1 28 12
37	1 27 34	1 28 11	1 28 48	1 29 25	1 30 2	1 30 39
38	1 29 56	1 30 34	1 31 12	1 31 50	1 32 28	1 33 6
39	1 32 18	1 32 57	1 33 36	1 34 15	1 34 54	1 35 33
40	1 34 40	1 35 20	1 36	1 36 40	1 37 20	1 38
41	1 37 2	1 37 43	1 38 24	1 39 5	1 39 46	1 40 27
42	1 39 24	1 40 6	1 40 48	1 41 30	1 42 12	1 42 54
43	1 41 46	1 42 29	1 43 12	1 43 55	1 44 38	1 45 21
44	1 44 8	1 44 52	1 45 36	1 46 20	1 47 4	1 47 48
45	1 46 30	1 47 15	1 48	1 48 45	1 49 30	1 50 15
46	1 48 52	1 49 38	1 50 24	1 51 10	1 51 56	1 52 42
47	1 51 14	1 52 1	1 52 48	1 53 35	1 54 22	1 55 9
48	1 55 36	1 54 24	1 55 12	1 56	1 56 48	1 57 36
49	1 55 58	1 56 47	1 57 36	1 58 25	1 59 14	2 0 3
50	1 58 20	1 59 10	2 0	2 1 50	2 1 40	2 2 30
51	2 0 42	2 1 33	2 2 24	2 3 15	2 4 6	2 4 57
52	2 3 4	2 3 56	2 4 48	2 5 40	2 6 32	2 7 24
53	2 5 26	2 6 19	2 7 12	2 8 5	2 8 58	2 9 51
54	2 7 48	2 8 42	2 9 36	2 10 30	2 11 24	2 12 18
55	2 10 10	2 11 5	2 12	2 12 55	2 13 50	2 14 45
56	2 12 32	2 13 28	2 14 24	2 15 20	2 16 16	2 17 12
57	2 14 54	2 15 51	2 16 48	2 17 45	2 18 42	2 19 39
58	2 17 16	2 18 14	2 19 12	2 20 10	2 21 8	2 22 6
59	2 19 38	2 20 37	2 21 36	2 22 35	2 23 34	2 24 33
60	2 22	2 23	2 24	2 25	2 26	2 27

Table of the Sun's Movement

59'12''	59'36''	1°	1°24''	1°48''	1°1'12''	24h
2'28''	2'29''	2'30''	2'31''	2'32''	2'33''	rh
'	'	'	'	'	'	'
1 16 28	1 16 59	1 17 30	1 18 1	1 18 32	1 19 3	31
1 18 56	1 19 28	1 20	1 20 32	1 21 4	1 21 36	32
1 21 24	1 21 57	1 22 30	1 23 3	1 23 36	1 24 9	33
1 25 52	1 24 26	1 25	1 25 34	1 26 8	1 26 42	34
1 26 30	1 26 55	1,27 30	1 28 5	1 28 40	1 29 15	35
1 28 48	1 29 24	1 30	1 30 36	1 31 12	1 31 48	36
1 31 16	1 31 53	1 32 30	1 33 7	1 33 44	1 34 21	37
1 33 44	1 34 22	1 35	1 35 38	1 36 16	1 36 54	38
1 36 12	1 36 51	1 37 30	1 38 9	1 38 48	1 39 27	39
1 38 40	1 39 20	1 40	1 40 40	1 41 20	1 42	40
1 41 8	1 41 29	1 42 30	1 43 11	1 43 52	1 44 33	41
1 43 36	1 44 18	1 45	1 45 42	1 46 24	1 47 6	42
1 46 4	1 46 47	1 47 30	1 48 13	1 48 56	1 49 39	43
1 48 32	1 49 16	1 50	1 50 44	1 51 28	1 52 12	44
1 51	1 51 45	1 52 30	1 53 15	54	1 54 45	45
1 53 28	1 54 14	1 55	1 55 46	1 56 32	1 57 18	46
1 55 56	1 56 43	1 57 30	1 58 17	1 59 4	1 59 51	47
1 58 24	1 59 12	2 0	2 0 48	2 1 36	2 2 24	48
2 0 52	2 1 41	2 2 30	2 3 19	2 4 8	2 4 57	49
2 3 20	2 4 10	2 5	2 5 50	2 6 40	2 7 30	50
2 5 48	2 6 39	2 7 30	2 8 21	2 9 12	2 10 3	51
2 8 16	2 9 8	2 10	2 10 52	2 11 44	2 12 36	52
2 10 44	2 11 37	2 12 30	2 13 23	2 14 16	2 15 9	53
2 13 12	2 14 6	2 15	2 15 54	2 16 48	2 17 42	54
2 15 40	2 16 35	2 17 30	2 18 25	2 19 20	2 20 15	55
2 18 8	2 19 4	2 20	2 20 56	2 21 52	2 22 48	56
2 20 36	2 21 33	2 22 30	2 23 7	2 24 24	2 25 21	57
2 23 4	2 24 2	2 25	2 25 58	2 26 56	2 27 54	58
2 25 32	2 26 31	2 27 30	2 28 29	2 29 8	2 30 27	49
2 28	2 29	2 30	2 31	2 32	2 33	60



Table of Interpolation

	1'	2'	3'	4'	5'	6'	7'	8'	9'	10'	11'	12'
1'	0',0416	0',0833	0',125	0',1666	0',2083	0',25	0',2916	0',3333	0',3750	0',4166	0',4583	0',50
2'	0',0833	0',1666	0',250	0',3333	0',4166	0',50	0',5833	0',6666	0',750	0',8333	0',9166	2',0
3'	0',1250	0',250	0',375	0',50	0',6250	0',75	0',8750	1',0	1',1250	1',250	1',3750	1',50
4'	0',1666	0',3333	0',500	0',6666	0',8333	1',0	1',1666	1',3333	1',50	1',6666	1',8333	2',0
5'	0',2083	0',4166	0',625	0',8333	1',0416	1',25	1',4583	1',6666	1',8750	2',0833	2',2916	2',50
6'	0',2500	0',50	0',750	1',0	1',250	1',50	1',750	2',0	2',250	2',50	2',750	3',0
7'	0',2916	0',5833	0',875	1',1666	1',4583	1',75	2',0416	2',3333	2',6250	2',9166	3',2083	3',50
8'	0',3333	0',6666	1',0	1',3333	1',6666	2',0	2',3333	2',6666	3',0	3',3333	3',6666	4',0
9'	0',3750	0',750	1',125	1',50	1',8750	2',25	2',6250	3',0	3',3750	3',750	4',1250	4',50

	13'	14'	15'	16'	17'	18'	19'	20'	21'	22'	23'	24'
1'	0',5416	0',5833	0',6250	0',6666	0',7083	0',750	0',7916	0',8333	0',8750	0',9166	0',9583	1',0
2'	1',0833	1',1666	1',250	1',3333	1',4166	1',50	1',5833	1',6666	1',750	1',8333	1',9166	2',0
3'	1',6250	1',750	1',8750	2',0	2',1250	2',250	2',3750	2',50	2',6250	2',750	2',8750	3',0
4'	2',1666	2',3333	2',50	2',6666	2',8333	3',0	3',1666	3',3333	3',50	3',6666	3',8333	4',0
5'	2',7083	2',9166	3',1250	3',3333	3',5416	3',750	3',9583	4',1666	4',3750	4',5833	4',7916	5',0
6'	3',250	3',50	3',750	4',0	4',250	4',50	4',750	5',0	5',250	5',50	5',750	6',0
7'	3',7916	4',0833	4',3750	4',6666	4',9583	5',250	5',5416	5',8333	6',1250	6',4166	6',7083	7',0
8'	4',3333	4',6666	5',0	5',3333	5',6666	6',0	6',3333	6',6666	7',0	7',3333	7',6666	8',0
9'	4',8750	5',250	5',6250	6',0	6',3750	6',750	7',1250	7',50	7',8750	8',250	8',6250	9',0

Table of Sidereal Times  
Corresponding to Days of the Year  
Simplifying Calculation of the Progressions of the Ascendant

JOURS	T S CORRESPONDANT	JOURS	T S CORRESPONDANT
1	0 h. 3 m. 57 s.	31	2 h. 2 m. 17 s.
2	0 h. 7 m. 54 s.	32	2 h. 6 m. 14 s.
3	0 h. 11 m. 51 s.	33	2 h. 10 m. 10 s.
4	0 h. 15 m. 47 s.	34	2 h. 14 m. 7 s.
5	0 h. 19 m. 44 s.	35	2 h. 18 m. 4 s.
6	0 h. 23 m. 41 s.	36	2 h. 22 m. 0 s.
7	0 h. 27 m. 37 s.	37	2 h. 25 m. 57 s.
8	0 h. 31 m. 34 s.	38	2 h. 29 m. 54 s.
9	0 h. 35 m. 31 s.	39	2 h. 33 m. 50 s.
10	0 h. 39 m. 27 s.	40	2 h. 37 m. 47 s.
11	0 h. 43 m. 24 s.	41	2 h. 41 m. 44 s.
12	0 h. 47 m. 21 s.	42	2 h. 45 m. 40 s.
13	0 h. 51 m. 17 s.	43	2 h. 49 m. 37 s.
14	0 h. 55 m. 14 s.	44	2 h. 53 m. 34 s.
15	0 h. 59 m. 11 s.	45	2 h. 57 m. 30 s.
16	1 h. 3 m. 7 s.	46	3 h. 1 m. 27 s.
17	1 h. 7 m. 4 s.	47	3 h. 5 m. 24 s.
18	1 h. 11 m. 1 s.	48	3 h. 9 m. 20 s.
19	1 h. 14 m. 57 s.	49	3 h. 13 m. 17 s.
20	1 h. 18 m. 54 s.	50	3 h. 17 m. 14 s.
21	1 h. 22 m. 51 s.	51	3 h. 21 m. 10 s.
22	1 h. 26 m. 47 s.	52	3 h. 25 m. 7 s.
23	1 h. 30 m. 44 s.	53	3 h. 29 m. 4 s.
24	1 h. 34 m. 41 s.	54	3 h. 33 m. 0 s.
25	1 h. 38 m. 37 s.	55	3 h. 36 m. 57 s.
26	1 h. 42 m. 34 s.	56	3 h. 40 m. 54 s.
27	1 h. 46 m. 31 s.	57	3 h. 44 m. 50 s.
28	1 h. 50 m. 27 s.	58	3 h. 48 m. 47 s.
29	1 h. 54 m. 24 s.	59	3 h. 52 m. 44 s.
30	1 h. 58 m. 20 s.	60	3 h. 56 m. 40 s.

JOURS	T S CORRESPONDANT	JOURS	T S CORRESPONDANT
61	4 h. 0 m. 37 s.	96	6 h. 18 m. 40 s.
62	4 h. 4 m. 33 s.	97	6 h. 22 m. 36 s.
63	4 h. 8 m. 30 s.	98	6 h. 26 m. 33 s.
64	4 h. 12 m. 27 s.	99	6 h. 30 m. 30 s.
65	4 h. 16 m. 23 s.	100	6 h. 34 m. 26 s.
66	4 h. 20 m. 20 s.	101	6 h. 38 m. 23 s.
67	4 h. 24 m. 17 s.	102	6 h. 42 m. 20 s.
68	4 h. 28 m. 13 s.	103	6 h. 46 m. 16 s.
69	4 h. 32 m. 10 s.	104	6 h. 50 m. 13 s.
70	4 h. 36 m. 7 s.	105	6 h. 54 m. 10 s.
71	4 h. 40 m. 3 s.	106	6 h. 58 m. 6 s.
72	4 h. 44 m. 0 s.	107	7 h. 2 m. 3 s.
73	4 h. 47 m. 57 s.	108	7 h. 6 m. 0 s.
74	4 h. 51 m. 53 s.	109	7 h. 9 m. 56 s.
75	4 h. 55 m. 50 s.	110	7 h. 13 m. 53 s.
76	4 h. 59 m. 47 s.	111	7 h. 17 m. 50 s.
77	5 h. 3 m. 43 s.	112	7 h. 21 m. 46 s.
78	5 h. 7 m. 40 s.	113	7 h. 25 m. 43 s.
79	5 h. 11 m. 37 s.	114	7 h. 29 m. 40 s.
80	5 h. 15 m. 33 s.	115	7 h. 33 m. 36 s.
81	5 h. 19 m. 30 s.	116	7 h. 37 m. 33 s.
82	5 h. 23 m. 27 s.	117	7 h. 41 m. 29 s.
83	5 h. 27 m. 23 s.	118	7 h. 45 m. 26 s.
84	5 h. 31 m. 20 s.	119	7 h. 49 m. 23 s.
85	5 h. 35 m. 17 s.	120	7 h. 53 m. 19 s.
86	5 h. 39 m. 13 s.	121	7 h. 57 m. 16 s.
87	5 h. 43 m. 10 s.	122	8 h. 1 m. 13 s.
88	5 h. 47 m. 7 s.	123	8 h. 5 m. 9 s.
89	5 h. 51 m. 3 s.	124	8 h. 9 m. 6 s.
90	5 h. 55 m. 0 s.	125	8 h. 13 m. 3 s.
91	5 h. 58 m. 57 s.	126	8 h. 16 m. 59 s.
92	6 h. 2 m. 53 s.	127	8 h. 20 m. 56 s.
93	6 h. 6 m. 50 s.	128	8 h. 24 m. 53 s.
94	6 h. 10 m. 47 s.	129	8 h. 28 m. 49 s.
95	6 h. 14 m. 43 s.	130	8 h. 32 m. 46 s.

JOURS	T S CORRESPONDANT	JOURS	T S CORRESPONDANT
131	8 h. 36 m. 43 s.	166	10 h. 54 m. 45 s.
132	8 h. 40 m. 39 s.	167	10 h. 58 m. 41 s.
133	8 h. 44 m. 36 s.	168	11 h. 2 m. 38 s.
134	8 h. 48 m. 33 s.	169	11 h. 6 m. 34 s.
135	8 h. 52 m. 29 s.	170	11 h. 10 m. 31 s.
136	8 h. 56 m. 26 s.	171	11 h. 14 m. 27 s.
137	9 h. 0 m. 23 s.	172	11 h. 18 m. 24 s.
138	9 h. 4 m. 19 s.	173	11 h. 22 m. 21 s.
139	9 h. 8 m. 16 s.	174	11 h. 26 m. 17 s.
140	9 h. 12 m. 13 s.	175	11 h. 30 m. 14 s.
141	9 h. 16 m. 9 s.	176	11 h. 34 m. 11 s.
142	9 h. 20 m. 6 s.	177	11 h. 38 m. 7 s.
143	9 h. 24 m. 2 s.	178	11 h. 42 m. 4 s.
144	9 h. 27 m. 59 s.	179	11 h. 46 m. 0 s.
145	9 h. 31 m. 55 s.	180	11 h. 49 m. 57 s.
146	9 h. 35 m. 51 s.	181	11 h. 53 m. 54 s.
147	9 h. 39 m. 48 s.	182	11 h. 57 m. 50 s.
148	9 h. 43 m. 45 s.	183	12 h. 1 m. 47 s.
149	9 h. 47 m. 41 s.	184	12 h. 5 m. 44 s.
150	9 h. 51 m. 38 s.	185	12 h. 9 m. 40 s.
151	9 h. 55 m. 35 s.	186	12 h. 13 m. 36 s.
152	9 h. 59 m. 31 s.	187	12 h. 17 m. 33 s.
153	10 h. 3 m. 28 s.	188	12 h. 21 m. 30 s.
154	10 h. 7 m. 25 s.	189	12 h. 25 m. 26 s.
155	10 h. 11 m. 21 s.	190	12 h. 29 m. 23 s.
156	10 h. 15 m. 18 s.	191	12 h. 33 m. 20 s.
157	10 h. 19 m. 15 s.	192	12 h. 37 m. 16 s.
158	10 h. 23 m. 11 s.	193	12 h. 41 m. 13 s.
159	10 h. 27 m. 8 s.	194	12 h. 45 m. 10 s.
160	10 h. 31 m. 5 s.	195	12 h. 49 m. 6 s.
161	10 h. 35 m. 1 s.	196	12 h. 53 m. 3 s.
162	10 h. 38 m. 58 s.	197	12 h. 57 m. 0 s.
163	10 h. 42 m. 55 s.	198	13 h. 0 m. 56 s.
164	10 h. 46 m. 51 s.	199	13 h. 4 m. 53 s.
165	10 h. 50 m. 48 s.	200	13 h. 8 m. 50 s.

JOURS	T S CORRESPONDANT	JOURS	T S CORRESPONDANT
201	13 h. 12 m. 46 s.	236	15 h. 30 m. 48 s.
202	13 h. 16 m. 43 s.	237	15 h. 34 m. 45 s.
203	13 h. 20 m. 39 s.	238	15 h. 38 m. 42 s.
204	13 h. 24 m. 36 s.	239	15 h. 42 m. 38 s.
205	13 h. 28 m. 33 s.	240	15 h. 46 m. 35 s.
206	13 h. 32 m. 29 s.	241	15 h. 50 m. 32 s.
207	13 h. 36 m. 26 s.	242	15 h. 54 m. 28 s.
208	13 h. 40 m. 23 s.	243	15 h. 58 m. 25 s.
209	13 h. 44 m. 19 s.	244	16 h. 2 m. 21 s.
210	13 h. 48 m. 16 s.	245	16 h. 6 m. 18 s.
211	13 h. 52 m. 13 s.	246	16 h. 10 m. 15 s.
212	13 h. 56 m. 9 s.	247	16 h. 14 m. 11 s.
213	14 h. 0 m. 6 s.	248	16 h. 18 m. 8 s.
214	14 h. 4 m. 2 s.	249	16 h. 22 m. 5 s.
215	14 h. 7 m. 59 s.	250	16 h. 26 m. 1 s.
216	14 h. 11 m. 56 s.	251	16 h. 29 m. 58 s.
217	14 h. 15 m. 52 s.	252	16 h. 33 m. 55 s.
218	14 h. 19 m. 49 s.	253	16 h. 37 m. 51 s.
219	14 h. 23 m. 46 s.	254	16 h. 41 m. 48 s.
220	14 h. 27 m. 42 s.	255	16 h. 45 m. 44 s.
221	14 h. 31 m. 39 s.	256	16 h. 49 m. 41 s.
222	14 h. 35 m. 35 s.	257	16 h. 53 m. 38 s.
223	14 h. 39 m. 32 s.	258	16 h. 57 m. 34 s.
224	14 h. 43 m. 29 s.	259	17 h. 1 m. 31 s.
225	14 h. 47 m. 25 s.	260	17 h. 5 m. 28 s.
226	14 h. 51 m. 22 s.	261	17 h. 9 m. 24 s.
227	14 h. 55 m. 19 s.	262	17 h. 13 m. 21 s.
228	14 h. 59 m. 15 s.	263	17 h. 17 m. 17 s.
229	15 h. 3 m. 12 s.	264	17 h. 21 m. 14 s.
230	15 h. 7 m. 9 s.	265	17 h. 25 m. 11 s.
231	15 h. 11 m. 5 s.	266	17 h. 29 m. 7 s.
232	15 h. 15 m. 2 s.	267	17 h. 33 m. 4 s.
233	15 h. 18 m. 58 s.	268	17 h. 37 m. 1 s.
234	15 h. 22 m. 55 s.	269	17 h. 40 m. 57 s.
235	15 h. 26 m. 52 s.	270	17 h. 44 m. 54 s.

JOURS	T S CORRESPONDANT	JOURS	T S CORRESPONDANT
271	17 h. 48 m. 50 s.	306	20 h. 6 m. 52 s.
272	17 h. 52 m. 47 s.	307	20 h. 10 m. 49 s.
273	17 h. 56 m. 44 s.	308	20 h. 14 m. 46 s.
274	18 h. 0 m. 40 s.	309	20 h. 18 m. 42 s.
275	18 h. 4 m. 37 s.	310	20 h. 22 m. 39 s.
276	18 h. 8 m. 34 s.	311	20 h. 26 m. 35 s.
277	18 h. 12 m. 30 s.	312	20 h. 30 m. 32 s.
278	18 h. 16 m. 27 s.	313	20 h. 34 m. 29 s.
279	18 h. 20 m. 23 s.	314	20 h. 38 m. 25 s.
280	18 h. 24 m. 20 s.	315	20 h. 42 m. 22 s.
281	18 h. 28 m. 17 s.	316	20 h. 46 m. 19 s.
282	18 h. 32 m. 13 s.	317	20 h. 50 m. 15 s.
283	18 h. 36 m. 10 s.	318	20 h. 54 m. 12 s.
284	18 h. 40 m. 7 s.	319	20 h. 58 m. 8 s.
285	18 h. 44 m. 3 s.	320	21 h. 2 m. 5 s.
286	18 h. 48 m. 0 s.	321	21 h. 6 m. 2 s.
287	18 h. 51 m. 56 s.	322	21 h. 9 m. 58 s.
288	18 h. 55 m. 53 s.	323	21 h. 13 m. 55 s.
289	18 h. 59 m. 50 s.	324	21 h. 17 m. 52 s.
290	19 h. 3 m. 46 s.	325	21 h. 21 m. 48 s.
291	19 h. 7 m. 43 s.	326	21 h. 25 m. 45 s.
292	19 h. 11 m. 40 s.	327	21 h. 29 m. 41 s.
293	19 h. 15 m. 36 s.	328	21 h. 33 m. 38 s.
294	19 h. 19 m. 33 s.	329	21 h. 37 m. 35 s.
295	19 h. 23 m. 29 s.	330	21 h. 41 m. 31 s.
296	19 h. 27 m. 26 s.	331	21 h. 45 m. 28 s.
297	19 h. 31 m. 23 s.	332	21 h. 49 m. 25 s.
298	19 h. 35 m. 19 s.	333	21 h. 53 m. 21 s.
299	19 h. 39 m. 16 s.	334	21 h. 57 m. 18 s.
300	19 h. 43 m. 13 s.	335	22 h. 1 m. 14 s.
301	19 h. 47 m. 9 s.	336	22 h. 5 m. 11 s.
302	19 h. 51 m. 6 s.	337	22 h. 9 m. 8 s.
303	19 h. 55 m. 2 s.	338	22 h. 13 m. 4 s.
304	19 h. 58 m. 59 s.	339	22 h. 17 m. 1 s.
305	20 h. 2 m. 56 s.	340	22 h. 20 m. 58 s.

JOURS	T S CORRESPONDANT	JOURS	T S CORRESPONDANT
341	22 h. 24 m. 54 s.	354	23 h. 16 m. 10 s.
342	22 h. 28 m. 51 s.	355	23 h. 20 m. 7 s.
343	22 h. 32 m. 47 s.	356	23 h. 24 m. 4 s.
344	22 h. 36 m. 44 s.	357	23 h. 28 m. 0 s.
345	22 h. 40 m. 41 s.	358	23 h. 31 m. 57 s.
346	22 h. 44 m. 37 s.	359	23 h. 35 m. 53 s.
347	22 h. 48 m. 34 s.	360	23 h. 39 m. 50 s.
348	22 h. 52 m. 31 s.	361	23 h. 43 m. 47 s.
349	22 h. 56 m. 27 s.	362	23 h. 47 m. 43 s.
350	23 h. 0 m. 24 s.	363	23 h. 51 m. 40 s.
351	23 h. 4 m. 20 s.	364	23 h. 55 m. 36 s.
352	23 h. 8 m. 17 s.	365	23 h. 59 m. 33 s.
353	23 h. 12 m. 14 s.		

## APPENDICES

## APPENDICES

- I. Notes on the diurnal logarithms, by Pluto.
- II. Sidereal Solar Returns, by Maurice Froger.
- III. Mensales, by Maurice Privat.

In order to make this book as complete as possible, we thought it would be useful to add three articles which appeared in "Les Cahiers Astrologiques" on the same topic, although personally I am not in agreement with the author of the second note.

Table of Dirunal Logarithms from 1" to 1' and of the Solar Movement from 57' to 1°1'12"

"	0'	57'	58'	59'	1°	1°1'
0		1,40249	1,39493	1,38750	1,38021	1,37303
1"	4,9365	236	480	737	38010	291
2	6356	223	467	725	37997	279
3	4594	210	455	713	985	267
4	3345	198	442	700	973	255
5	2375	185	430	689	961	243
6	1584	173	418	676	949	231
7	0914	160	405	664	937	220
8	4,0334	147	393	652	925	208
9	3,9823	135	381	640	913	196
10	9365	122	368	628	901	184
11	3,8951	1,40109	1,39355	1,38615	1,37889	1,37172
12	8573	096	343	602	877	1,37160
13	8226	084	330	590	865	
14	7904	071	318	578	853	
15	7604	058	306	566	841	
16	7324	045	294	554	829	
17	7061	033	281	542	816	
18	6812	021	268	530	804	
19	6578	1,40008	256	518	792	
20	6355	1,39993	243	505	780	
21	3,6143	1,39983	1,39231	1,38493	1,37768	
22	5941	970	219	480	756	
23	5748	958	207	468	744	
24	5563	945	194	456	732	
25	5386	932	181	444	720	
26	5215	920	169	431	708	
27	5052	905	157	419	696	
28	4894	895	145	408	684	
29	4741	882	132	395	672	
30	4594	869	121	383	660	
31	3,4452	1,39856	1,39107	1,38371	1,37648	
32	4314	845	095	359	636	
33	4180	831	082	347	624	
34	4050	819	070	335	612	
35	3925	806	058	322	601	
36	3802	794	045	310	589	
37	3685	781	034	298	577	
38	3567	769	021	286	565	
39	3456	756	1,39008	274	553	
40	3345	744	1,38996	262	541	
41	3,3239	1,39731	1,38984	1,38249	1,37529	
42	3133	718	971	237	517	
43	3032	705	959	225	505	
44	2930	693	947	213	493	
45	2833	681	934	201	481	
46	2738	667	922	188	469	
47	2644	656	910	176	457	
48	2553	642	898	165	445	
49	2464	630	885	152	433	
50	2375	618	873	140	421	
51	3,2291	1,39605	1,38861	1,38128	1,37409	
52	2206	593	848	116	397	
53	2123	580	836	104	385	
54	2041	568	823	092	374	
55	1963	555	811	079	362	
56	1883	542	799	068	350	
57	1807	530	787	056	338	
58	1731	518	774	044	327	
59"	1657	505	762	032	315	

NOTE ON THE DIURNAL LOGARITHMS

Remember that a diurnal logarithm is composed of:

- a) its characteristic, or the whole number of the logarithm;
- b) its mantissa, or the decimal part.

To find the number (N) corresponding to a given diurnal log. (A), whose mantissa is not in the regular tables, note the diurnal log. immediately above (B) and calculate the difference (C) by subtracting B from the diurnal log. given. Then find the difference between the diurnal log. above (B) and the one below (D). This difference (E) is equivalent to one minute. Divide the first result (C) by the second (E) and thus obtain the fraction of a minute (F). This fraction can be changed into seconds by multiplying it by 60. Add this result (G) to the number found (H) that corresponds most closely to the given diurnal log.

Diagrammatically:

$$\frac{A-B}{B-D} \times 60 = G; \text{ then } H + G = N$$

To simplify these calculations, in the table opposite we have condensed the diurnal logs. from 1" to 59", and those of the apparent movement of the Sun (geocentric system) from 57' to 1°1'12".

The following example of the calculation of a Solar Return for 1938 explains their use, with an approximation sufficient for the practicing astrologer:

- a) Position of the Sun at birth, November 19, 1905,  
15h 20m GMT. 26°38'32" Scorpio
- b) Position of the Sun on the birthday,  
November 19, 1938, at 0h 0m GMT. 26°0'09" Scorpio
- c) Difference in longitude between  
the two solar positions 38'23"
- d) Solar movement in 24 hours on the day  
of the birthday, Nov. 19, 1938 1°0'35"
- e) diurnal log. for 38' 1.5786  
diurnal log. for 1°0'35" -1.3760  
difference 2.1988 which corresponds to  
15h 3m
- f) diurnal log. for 23" 3.5748  
diurnal log. for 1°0'35" -1.3760  
difference 2.1988 which corresponds to  
0h 9m
- g) The Solar Return for November 19, 1938  
will occur at 15h 12m.

PLUTO

## SIDEREAL SOLAR RETURNS

In the course of research in an effort to come to my own conclusion about the various methods of astrological prediction, I was led to examine a series of solar and lunar returns for the same person, in order to see if the events of this person's life could have been predicted unambiguously by these methods.

I was obliged to admit that the correlations were too rare to permit me to derive sufficiently secure and complete predictions from the solar returns.

A more complete study seemed to reveal that in certain cases a displacement of the houses gave more exact correlations. Since the first hypothesis that occurred to my mind was the incorrectness of the time of birth, I made various attempts at rectification, without much success.

In another instance, focusing my attention on a chart for which I had a great deal of information, and which had been rectified according to the principles of the Trutine of Hermes—thereafter showing precise correlations in the primary directions (M. Lasson's system), I observed that the lunar returns, much more than the solar returns, represented very faithfully the events of the life.

Finally I thought of checking whether I could not find a better correlation by taking into account the *precession of the equinoxes*. As it turned out, my very first attempts justified my patience. Although I do not pretend to have found an infallible method, I call the attention of researchers to a study of solar returns corrected by the precession, which for the sake of convenience I will call the PSR, designating traditional solar returns as

SR; PLR indicating lunar returns corrected by the precession, and LR, traditional lunar returns.

**Principle of PSR**—Since the precession is about  $50''26$  per year in relation to the fixed stars the vernal or gamma point recedes by that amount, and when the Sun reaches that point, it still has an arc of  $50''26$  to go before it returns to the same position as the preceding year at the vernal equinox (in relation to the fixed stars).

This arc is insignificant—the Sun traverses it in about 20 minutes—but it corresponds to a difference in Midheaven of  $5^\circ$  and a difference in the Ascendant of from  $3^\circ$  to  $10^\circ$  for our latitudes. To make a PSR I cast the chart for the moment when the Sun has arrived at its radical longitude *plus*  $50''26$  per year.

Consequently, for a person 35 years old, the PSR occurs about twelve hours later than the SR. The Midheaven becomes the Nadir; due to the obliquity of the ecliptic, the Ascendants are not necessarily in opposition; the aspects between planets remain the same; only the Moon has advanced by six or seven degrees from the SR to the PSR. So you can imagine that between the SR and the PSR there are some marked similarities and some basic differences.

Naturally, for a person 70 years old, the PSR occurs a day later than the SR; the domification is essentially the same, but the Moon has advanced by twelve or fifteen degrees. If it is a collective chart, the deviation can be considerable: for 700 years, you would have a difference of 10 degrees for the Sun and about 120 degrees for the Moon: the interpretation would be totally different.

The difference between the PLR and the LR is much smaller. The Moon traverses  $50''26$  in about 1m 40s. In 70 years this amounts to only two hours. This reconciles the observations that the LR give better results than the SR, and tends to support the thesis I am presenting here.

In summary, the proposed system amounts to placing the radical positions in relation to the fixed stars, and not in relation

to the vernal equinox. I do not want to philosophize on this point which raises some fundamental questions for astrology. Only the comparative use of the two systems will permit us to judge which one is nearer the truth.

A few remarks:

1. I think that the principle of correction for the precession should be applied to all planetary returns, some of which—especially that of ruler of the Ascendant—have struck me as interesting.

2. Logically, with the PSR and PLR, comparison with radical positions should be made by adding  $50''26$  per year to the latter.

3. The question of the casting of the SR for the place of residence or birth should be re-examined. It does not seem absolutely logical that destiny could be altered by a trip on the birthday. The modification appears to have been made precisely in order to displace the houses, which certain explanations seemed to require. Possibly the system proposed here will give the desired result by itself, using the place of birth. Undeniably this would be a great advantage: if it is frequently difficult to determine where the native was at the moment of the solar return, it is absolutely impossible to know where he will be in the future. In this case, predictions are subservient to the presence of the native in a determined place.

**Conclusion**—This communication is made with the sole aim of inducing researchers to compare the PSR with the SR, and is addressed especially to those who use the SR and the LR.

I would be happy to have inspired some documented critical analyses, capable of carrying astrological science toward a Truth which undoubtedly can never be attained, but against which all our efforts should be matched.

MAURICE FROGER



## THE MENSALES

The use of Solar Returns has been explained by Alexander Volguine in his *Technique of Solar Returns*, a book as explicit and direct as von Klöckler's *Solar Returns*, but superior to it. It is a key. Its principles are irrefutable, and the work can only be enlarged upon.

I have heard it said, I have even read in the *Cahiers*, that Solar Returns do not produce results. Those who reject them without knowing how to interpret them, have reached a decision based on their own incompetence. I myself examine hundreds in the course of a year, and I can confirm their extreme value. Is it not proof enough to recall that the ingresses—particularly that of Aries for the Northern Hemisphere—are Solar Returns, Returns for which we unfortunately lack the natal chart? When this point is brought out, should it not make the importance of the Solar Return clear?

The Solar Return constitutes an incomparable tool, which marks out the year in detail. I had the opportunity to examine one for an important enterprise, and the information it contained, detailed fully from one day to the next, was confirmed completely. Here it was dealing with a theoretical entity.

The directions in a Solar Return are numerous: on some days you can count 15 or more, all very expressive.

Since Solar Returns are well known, I would like to direct attention to a less familiar subject: the "Mensales" or Lunar Returns.

Whenever the Moon, after birth, returns to its natal place, which occurs every sidereal lunar month, a chart can be cast, and compared with the radix. For that month you will obtain

numerous indications. These are the Mensales, from Latin *mensis* — month. But to obtain more extensive and decisive ones, I advise you to use not the degree of the natal Moon, but that of the Moon in the Solar Return, which will prove to be more determinative for the given year, since it is specific to the time period involved.

I would be happy if our predecessors had used the Moon of the Solar Return in this way; but I have found no earlier examples, although experience has shown me its superiority. In Astrology, where the greatest geniuses have left their imprint, we often find forgotten theories that show that we are on the right track. So I recommend this method which will quickly justify itself.

With this technique especially, the Mensale enables us to approach the chart in three dimensions, enriching it as a consequence. It is superimposed on the Solar Return, which is itself combined with the natal chart. The combination thus plays on three keyboards of houses and planets, rather than on two. The revelations at once become more delicate, more subtle and full of nuance. They demand more finesse, but they respond in an extraordinary revelatory manner, which enables us to penetrate to the details. The Mensale is similar to the microscope in the powers of magnification and analysis which can be obtained.

But just as the microscope is difficult to use, so are Mensales, in spite of their yield. Astrology — as its name indicates — is the language, the wisdom, the science of heaven, its Word, a secret word which must be deciphered by means of the duodenary mechanism of signs and houses, and of their diverse intersections.

Certainly, the best interpreters have recourse to dictionaries, in order to determine the full compass of certain words, or to grasp them at the roots; but no good version is produced by leafing through a dictionary. Saint Jerome advised us not to be absorbed by the words in translating, but to seek the sense, and then be free to use other expressions. The man who gave us the Vulgate, gave us the key to our art.

We can not depend on texts in our work, but on relationships which we must know how to put into words. It is far from simple.

Superimposition complicates the process even more. If the Return Eleventh is in the radical Twelfth: the prison of friends, the friends of prisons, secret friends and enemies, income of friends and supporters, the snares of friends, and so many other relationships will be involved. The Mensale will provide specificity: if its Ascendant falls in the Return Eleventh, it will indicate a personal action, an activity involving friends, even those who influence the radical Twelfth.

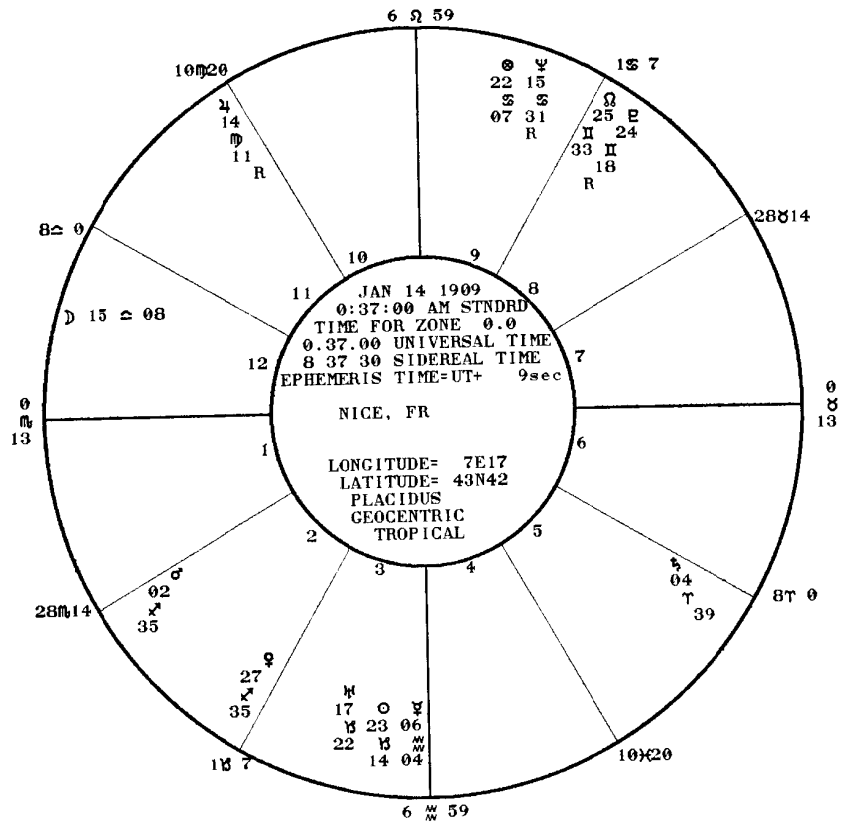
Until you can manage to distinguish the ordering of the three components, you can use the interpretations in Volguine's *Technique of Solar Returns* to make the combinations. This excellent exercise will refine the intellect and make it more agile, enabling it to extend its vocabulary. For the astrologer these efforts are equivalent to the scales of the pianist, imparting freedom, speed, sprightliness.

Should the Solar Return warn of a serious accident for which it is difficult to fix the date, the Mensale will clarify the matter. Each month it accentuates the essential incidents.

Certainly these analyses are long. A friend who studied under my guidance confided:

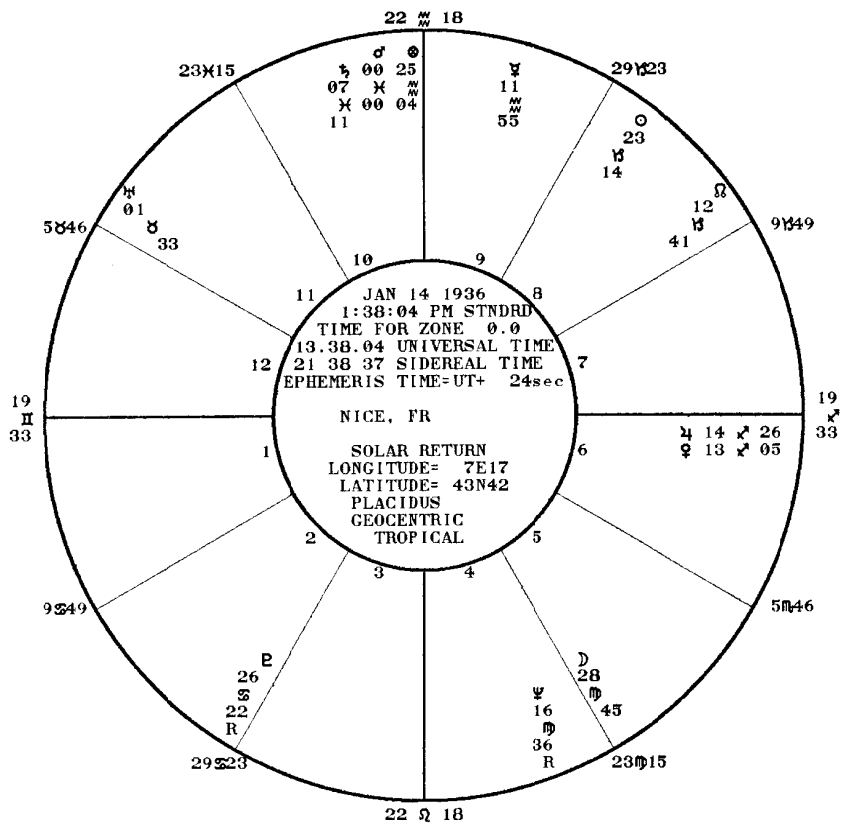
"I understand why princes had an astrologer attached to their court. And now I know why this sage never ran out of work all year!"

Well put. These researches must be returned to in depth over and over again, letting them penetrate beyond the unconscious, to the heart of things. The Mensale is one of the tools permitting great progress, indispensable to inner vision. Let us not forget that Astrology is an art of analysis as much as synthesis. Whatever promotes finesse in interpretation should be precious to us, since it adds diagnosis.

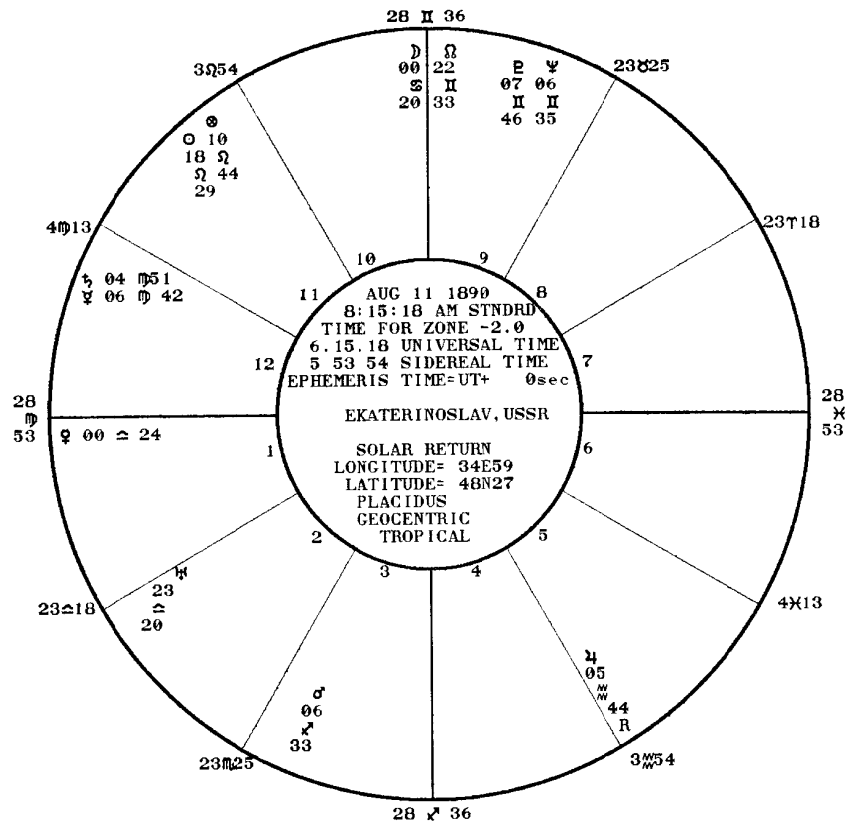


PLANET	SIGN	LONG	HSE	DECL	LAT	GEOCENTRIC DIS	TRAVEL
SUN	Cpr	23 13 45	3	21S27	0 00	N-NODE	S-NODE 99 1 1
MOON	Lib	15 8 11	12	1S25	4N55	24Ge24	24Sa24 10 12 6
MERC	E Aqu	6 3.9	3	20S36	1S54	11Aq47	03Cp45 21 1 39
VENU	Sag	27 35.4	2	22S45	0N41	10P101	07Cp28 18 1 15
MARS	Sag	2 35.5	2	20S19	0N23	08Ar37	13Sa03 29 0 40
JUPI	D Vir	14 11.4R	11	7N23	1N15	06Ca32	11Cp46 69 0 3
SATU	F Ari	4 39.5	5	0S19	2S22	22Ca59	23Cp02 44 0 4
URAN	Cpr	17 21.7	3	22S43	0S24	11Ge21	15Sa08 14 0 4
NEPT	E Can	15 30.7R	9	21N47	0S47	11Le24	10Aq16 93 0 2
PLUT	Gem	24 18.2R	8	15N60	7S20	19Ca08	19Cp21 27 0 1
ASC	Scp	0 12.8	1	11S33			
MC	Leo	6 58.6	10	18N32			
NODE*	Gem	25 33.5	8				
PFOR	Can	22 7.2	9				
VERTEX	Gem	5 13.9					
EASTPT	Scp	11 48.9					

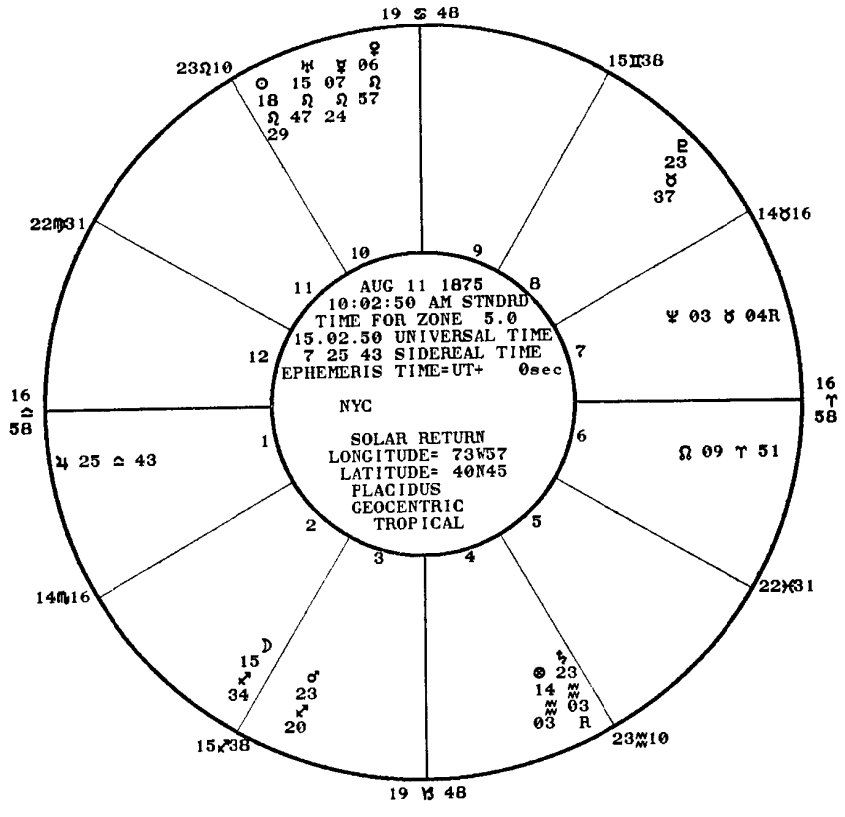
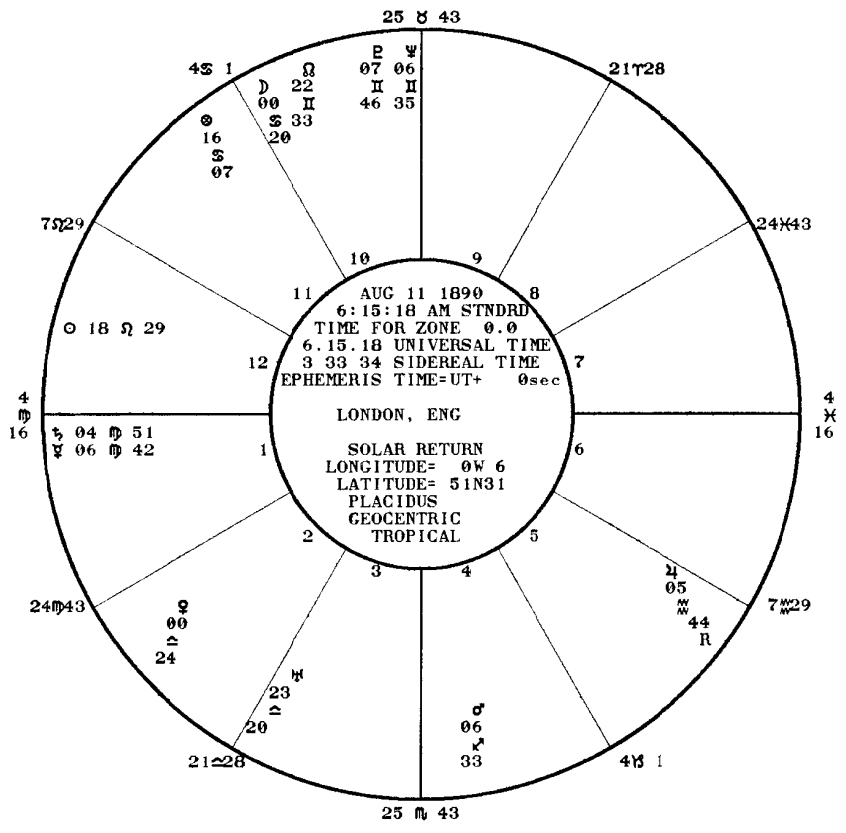
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 \*TRUE NODE



PLANET	SIGN	LONG	HSE	DECL	LAT	GEOCENTRIC	DIS	TRAVEL
SUN	Cpr	23 13 45	8	21S27	0 00	N-NODE	S-NODE 99	1 1
MOON	Vir	28 44 39	5	4S12	5S 7	12Cp12	12Ca12	5 11 52
MERC	E Aqu	11 54.7	9	18S 1	0S50	11Aq46	03Cp50	48 1 8
VENU	Sag	13 5.2	6	20S22	2N 1	09P159	07Cp34	44 1 12
MARS	Aqu	29 59.7	10	12S26	1S 1	08Ar47	13Sa10	27 0 47
JUPI	R Sag	14 25.8	6	21S56	0N37	06Ca48	11Cp57	15 0 12
SATU	Pic	7 11.4	10	10S29	1S44	23Ca16	23Cp15	21 0 6
URAN	F Tau	1 33.4	11	11N33	0S30	11Ge35	15Sa21	38 0 0
NEPT	D Vir	16 35.7R	4	6N14	1N 1	11Le41	10Aq32	68 0 1
PLUT	Can	26 21.8R	2	23N 0	2N 9	19Ca23	19Cp35	54 0 1
ASC	Gem	19 32.8	1	23N 2				
MC	Aqu	22 17.6	10	14S 5				
NODE*	Cpr	12 41.1	8					
PFOR	Aqu	25 3.7	10					
VERTEX	Scp	10 44.1						
EASTPT	Tau	26 56.9						
R=RULE D=DETRIMENT								
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*TRUE NODE								



PLANET	SIGN	LONG	HSE	DECL	LAT	GEOCENTRIC	DIS	TRAVEL
SUN	R Leo	18 29 0	11	15N18	0 00	N-NODE	S-NODE 10	0 58
MOON	R Can	0 20 26	10	24N 9	0N42	20Ce46	20Sa46	10 11 55
MERC	R Vir	6 41.6	12	9N54	0N55	01Le09	12Vi18	23 1 38
VENU	R Lib	0 24.2	1	0N 5	0N16	22Ca59	01Li58	49 1 8
MARS	Sag	6 33.0	3	24S31	3S 9	23Ge09	15Li27	85 0 25
JUPI	Aqu	5 44.5R	5	19S37	0S47	15Ca12	00Cp37	94 0 7
SATU	Vir	4 50.9	12	11N11	1N34	25Ca11	19Cp48	25 0 7
URAN	Lib	23 20.3	2	8S33	0N33	16Ce03	10Sa34	59 0 2
NEPT	Gem	6 35.0	9	19N50	1S36	10Le54	10Aq22	47 0 1
PLUT	Gem	7 45.7	9	10N 8	11S38	20Ca03	18Cp31	11 0 1
ASC	Vir	28 53.1	1	0N27				
MC	Gem	28 36.1	10	23N27				
NODE*	Gem	22 33.4	9					
PFOR	Leo	10 44.5	11					
VERTEX	Pic	27 18.0						
EASTPT	Vir	28 20.3						
R=RULE D=DETRIMENT								
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*TRUE NODE								



PLANET	SIGN	LONG	HSE	DECL	LAT	GEOCENTRIC	DIS	TRAVEL
SUN	R Leo	18 29 0	12	15N18	0 00	N-NODE	S-NODE 10	0 58
MOON	R Can	0 20 26	10	24N 9	0N42	20Ge46	20Sa46	10 11 55
MERC	R Vir	6 41.6	1	9N54	0N55	01Le09	12V118	23 1 38
VENU	R Lib	0 24.2	2	0N 5	0N16	22Ca59	01L158	49 1 8
MARS	Sag	6 33.0	4	24S31	3S 9	23Ce09	15Li27	85 0 25
JUPI	Aqu	5 44.5R	5	19S37	0S47	15Ca12	00Cp37	94 0 7
SATU	Vir	4 50.9	1	11N11	1N34	25Ca11	19Cp48	25 0 7
URAN	Lib	23 20.3	3	8S33	0N33	16Ce03	10Sa34	59 0 2
NEPT	Gem	6 35.0	10	19N50	1S36	10Le54	10Aq22	47 0 1
PLUT	Gem	7 45.7	10	10N 8	11S38	20Ca03	18Cp31	11 0 1
ASC	Vir	4 15.8	1	9N57				
MC	Tau	25 43.5	10	19N12	MUTUAL RECEPTION			
NODE*	Gem	22 33.4	10		NONE			
PFOR	Can	16 7.3	11					
VERTEX	Aqu	5 9.5						
EASTPT	Leo	21 0.0						

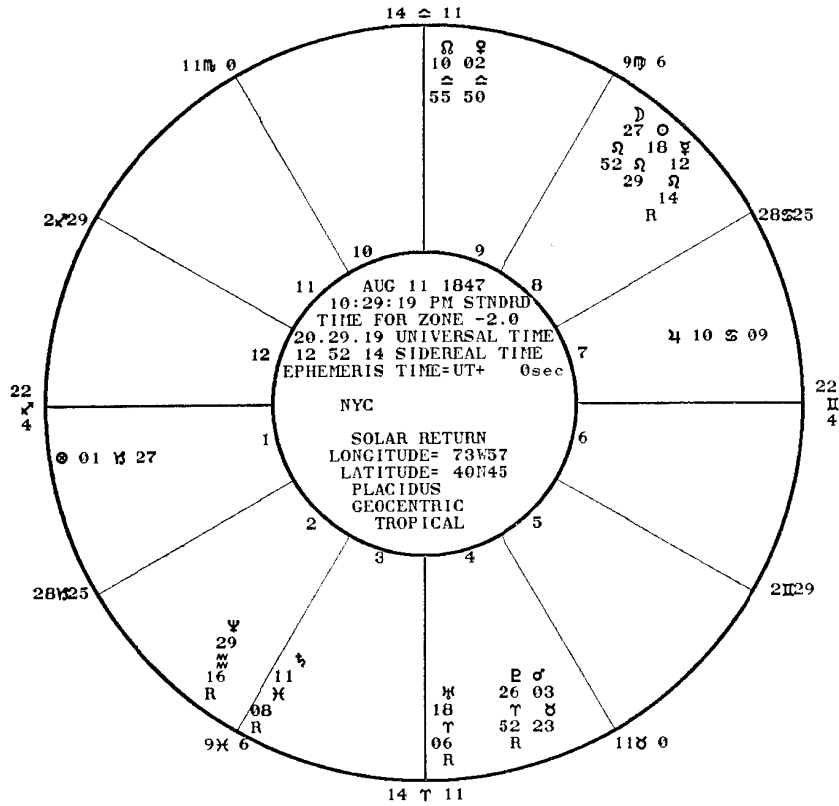
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PLANET	SIGN	LONG	HSE	DECL	LAT	GEOCENTRIC	DIS	TRAVEL
SUN	R Leo	18 29 0	10	15N18	0 00	N-NODE	S-NODE 11	0 58
MOON	Sag	15 33 38	2	27S19	4S40	10Ar53	10L153	7 12 2
MERC	F Leo	7 24.0	10	19N33	1N10	01Le08	12V116	24 1 58
VENU	Leo	6 56.8	10	19N21	0N50	22Ca55	01L156	4 1 14
MARS	Sag	23 20.1	3	27S45	4S28	23Ge04	15L122	92 0 14
JUPI	Lib	25 43.2	1	8S55	1N 7	15Ca05	00Cp28	28 0 8
SATU	R Aqu	23 3.4R	4	15S 9	1S23	25Ca03	19Cp40	73 0 4
URAN	D Leo	15 47.2	10	16N44	0N39	15Ce56	10Sa26	44 0 4
NEPT	Tau	3 4.0R	7	10N52	1S47	10Le45	10Aq13	71 0 0
PLUT	D Tau	23 36.7	8	4N45	14S22	19Ca55	18Cp23	7 0 0
ASC	Lib	16 58.4	1	6S40				
MC	Can	19 48.0	10	21N60	MUTUAL RECEPTION			
NODE*	Ari	9 51.3	6		NONE			
PFOR	Aqu	14 3.1	4					
VERTEX	Tau	12 58.9						
EASTPT	Lib	23 9.7						

R=RULE D=DETRIMENT  
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# ALEXANDRE VOLGUINE

## LUNAR ASTROLOGY



PLANET	SIGN	LONG	HSE	DECL	LAT	GEOCENTRIC	DIS	TRAVEL
SUN	R Leo	18 29 0	8	15N18	0 00	N-NODE	S-NODE 11 0 58	
MOON	Leo	27 51 41	8	8N57	3S30	12Li26	12Ar26 11 12 3	
MERC	F Leo	12 14.4R	8	13N 4	4S15	01Le06	12Vi13 91 0 37	
VENU	R Lib	2 49.9	9	3S12	2S16	22Ca50	01L153 80 0 47	
MARS	D Tau	3 23.4	4	9N45	3S 6	22Ge54	15Li12 85 0 28	
JUPI	E Can	10 9.1	7	22N57	0S 7	14Ca53	00Cp12 22 0 12	
SATU	Pic	11 7.7R	3	9S15	2S 0	24Ca50	19Cp23 75 0 4	
URAN	Ari	18 6.4R	4	6N29	0S40	15Ge42	10Sa12 43 0 1	
NEPT	Aqu	29 16.5R	2	12S18	0S36	10Le29	09Aq55 92 0 2	
PLUT	Ari	26 51.9R	4	5S39	17S 9	19Ca41	18Cp08 11 0 0	
ASC	Sag	22 4.0	1	23S13				
MC	Lib	14 11.4	10	5S36				
NODE*	Lib	10 55.3	9					
PFOR	Cpr	1 26.7	1					
VERTEX	Leo	4 29.5						
EASTPT	Cpr	12 0.8						

R=RULE D=DETRIMENT  
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In all of the occidental and oriental literature, including Hindu literature, it is absolutely the only text on Lunar Astrology ever published that is so complete and impartial; the only one that describes not only the twenty-eight Lunar Mansions (more or less equivalent to the Hindu *Nakshatras*), but also the twenty-eight Lunar Houses (which more or less correspond to the Hindu *Tithis*); the only one that gives the descriptions according to the Hindu asterisms, the *Manazils* of the Arabs, the Chinese *Siu*, and according to the Kabbala or Hebraic esoteric tradition. Not content with supplying us with all this knowledge, it is the only one, lastly, which has taken it as a point of honor to support it with a multitude of examples, almost all of them modern. To sum it all up: this book is a mine of information, undoubtedly the best we possess on the subject of Lunar Astrology, *not confined to one system*, and ignoring others. How many times I have verified the accuracy of these significations given by Volguine, and the reliability of the descriptions — all of which implies an extremely conscientious research.

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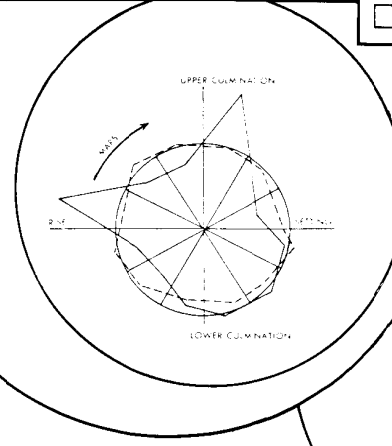
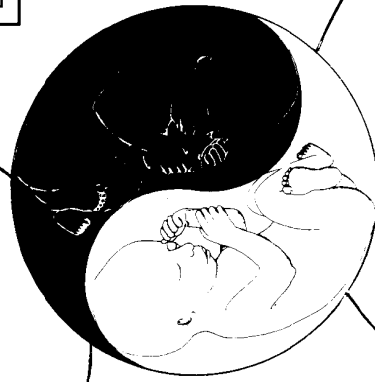
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