

MERCURY

MERCURY BY SIGN

Natal Mercury in Aries

(Jan Spiller and Karen McCoy)

Static

When you fear losing the visible impact of direct and authoritative communication, you cease to communicate successfully with others. You may have a tendency to speak in ways that appear aggressive, overbearing, and almost militant in expression. This challenging, intimidating attitude toward the audience can result in alienation and misunderstanding.

Dynamic

When your attention is on communicating in a way that inspires others to act, your natural sense of combat is turned into a creative, stimulating interaction. By focusing on inspiring others, you are able to express yourself in ways that awaken them to new perceptions of their immediate circumstances. By becoming aware of their reactions, you can know in advance the impact your communication will have. This awareness of the other person leads to gaining the Aries sense of freedom for assertive expression.

(Grant Lewi)

Your reaction to sense impressions is keen and alert. You detect smells, sounds, sights and tastes acutely and are very much alive to what you do or don't like in the world of sense impressions. Your sense of touch is not as alert as the others senses, though you are capable of training this sense if one of the others is served by it. Thus you can develop the sensitive fingers of a musician (violinist or pianist), making your touch serve hearing; or the robust hands of a sculptor, to make touch serve sight. Your reaction to sense impressions is personal; you interpret what you sense in the light of your ego, and are a scientific observer only if your total ego development is along those lines. Generally you will be impressed by, and remember, what serves your purposes; let the chips fall where they may. Sound is very important to you, and you should strive to live only amid harmonious and agreeable sounds. Cultivate the habit of listening to music, for sound penetrates directly to your ego centers, and, if it is harmonious, serves to harmonize your whole nature.

(Sydney Omarr)

In Aries, Mercury tells of one who reacts quickly, is sensitive, perceives artistic values; appreciates originality; is delighted by skill, talent and creativity; and is capable of offering criticism on the highest level. The astrologer must help the native to become something more than merely clever. He needs to learn the value of being thorough, determined - creative rather than merely headstrong.

Indications are that the native is fluent in speech. Grant Lewi makes that point that sound is very important to the native, and he should strive to live amid 'agreeable' sounds. The native, thus, would be attracted to music and should be encouraged to develop his sense of music appreciation. He reacts to first impressions and must avoid acting completely on impulse. He has an active imagination but requires

direction, discipline and realization of his own potential.

(Skye Alexander)

Your mind is quick and active, and you tend to grasp concepts with lightning speed. If an idea or subject interests you, you pursue it with fervor and enthusiasm. However, you have trouble sticking with anything for long, and your memory isn't very good. Your mind is always racing from one thought to another, and you find it difficult to concentrate. Consequently, you probably weren't an 'A' student even if you are quite bright. Mentally restless and easily bored, you need to be continually challenged intellectually in order to keep you interested.

You especially enjoy exploring new ideas and concepts. You don't believe something just because everyone else does, and you can be something of a renegade thinker. Conventional wisdom and accepted truths don't have much value for you, and you are eager to contest them with original ideas of your own. This is the position of the inventor and the adventurer. Because you aren't blinded by religious attitudes and beliefs, you sometimes come up with brilliant insights and epiphanies. But in your headlong rush to discover the new you sometimes overlook important bits of information or are careless in your research.

You have a powerful voice and tend to speak loudly and forcefully. This planetary position often signifies the dynamic orator or the irritating loud-mouth. You love to argue, and will debate almost any issue heatedly, even if your purpose is only to exercise your mental muscles. Verbally assertive, even provocative, you get yourself into trouble regularly because you don't know when to hold your tongue or use a bit of tact. You have a real knack for saying the wrong thing at the wrong time. Even when you aren't angry, your tone of voice can be so abrasive that it antagonizes others immediately; and you can be difficult to get along with. Your bark, however, is much worse than your bite, and if your Sun is in Taurus or Pisces you are probably a pussycat who roars like a lion.

You often espouse unconventional beliefs, and aren't afraid to champion an unpopular cause. Direct and honest (sometimes brutally so), you say what you think. Not deceitful, you believe in laying all your cards on the table so that everyone knows where you stand and what your intentions are. Your purity of intent at times is so innocent and naive, though, that people who are more conniving or cunning can easily take advantage of you.

Mercury in Aries focuses energy into your hands, giving you great manual strength and / or speed.

Saturn aspects to your Mercury will help discipline your mind and focus your attention so that you can direct your mental energy into productive channels. They also improve your memory so that you are more likely to retain what you learn.

(Marion D. March and Joan McEvers)

You are imaginative, and you have good foresight and a desire to be first in everything. You can express yourself easily, and you can improvise beautifully. At times you use your nervous energies cuttingly or even sarcastically. Impetuous and impulsive, you may tend to sudden shifts and changes of viewpoint. This placement is not well adapted for sustained mental effort; therefore you need to cultivate patience and learn not to be impatient with delays. Witty, inventive and quick on the trigger, you have original ideas. Combative, you love a good debate. Sometimes you can be too headstrong or too self-centred. If there are challenging aspects from Mercury to

Jupiter in your chart, you are prone to exaggeration. You tend to look at the world as you wish it to be, not as it really is. Many fixed planets in your chart will help to stabilize this placement of Mercury.

(Frances Sakoian and Louis Acker)

Mercury placed in the sign Aries indicates a way of thinking that is inclined to be decisive and competitive. The natives are fond of debate and argument. They often have the ability to think rapidly, and may produce many original ideas. However, they can be impulsive when making decisions and see things from too personal a point of view. If carried too far, this tendency can result in intellectual egotism and headstrong attitudes.

These people are impatient with opposition and delays; consequently, they will often act just to make a decision, to avoid being subjected to lengthy, frustrating decision-making processes. But their impulsiveness means they do not always follow through on ideas they initiate, unless a fixed sign emphasized in the horoscope indicates otherwise.

If Mercury is afflicted in this sign, there can be irritability and a quick temper.

(Julia and Derek Parker)

This gives decisiveness, quick thinking, and the ability to assess problems in a straightforward way. If Mercury is in negative aspect to Mars there may be impulsive thinking and hasty actions. Usually, however, the natural decisiveness works well, with the individual making the right choice and taking positive, assertive action. There is a love of argument and debate, with a tendency towards stimulating and provocative remarks. Generally fools are not suffered gladly; the individual comes straight to the point, and his or her outlook is both positive and optimistic. The overall grasp is excellent; but help is advisable when making plans, for he is bored by detail and prefers the broad sweep of a project. It can be difficult to concentrate for long, so study may be erratic. Here is someone who will stay up all night before an exam - and often this is no bad thing, since he is more concerned with the here and now than with facts he tried months before to memorise.

If the Sun sign is Pisces, Mercury in Aries adds necessary decisiveness, a more positive outlook, and to a certain extent more self-assurance. The imagination will be ignited, and as a result the creative potential will be expressed positively when in other cases it can lie dormant due to lack of self-confidence. The high emotional level of Pisces will be expressed; and the ability to communicate feelings enhanced, although if Mercury is negatively aspected by the Moon or Uranus there can be an above-average amount of tension, and excitable, positive moods can alternate with periods of uncertainty. Piscean strength of will is increased.

If the Sun sign is Aries, the Arian need for action, and to be out in front, is spiced with extremely quick thinking processes. There is a general hastiness, with patience almost non-existent, unless the Moon or Ascendant suggests otherwise. Directness of approach, decisiveness and positive, uncomplicated thinking are splendidly in tune with Arian characteristics; and if they can be tempered (look for positive help from Saturn) the individual will certainly make his or her mark on the world. Impulsive, hasty actions with unnecessary risk-taking, and selfishness due to a lack of thought, must be controlled.

If the Sun sign is Taurus, speed and vivacity are added to the stable Taurean type, making him or her less cautious but more assertively decisive. However, the

individual will also be less patient and may even show some irritation when others do not greet his ideas or suggestions in the right way. Problems and projects are approached with realism and enthusiasm; and the Taurean need for careful planning will be enhanced by the ability to grasp a situation quickly and concisely. A spirit of enterprise blends with the Taurus business ability.

Natal Mercury in Taurus

(Jan Spiller and Karen McCoy)

Static

If you indulge in the Taurus fear of losing tangible support, from a rational point of view this may lead into your repeating ideas and plans. The result can be an overstructured mind that gets tied up in a material or literal level of thought and stifles your creativity. Indulging in the tendency to resist ideas that are not your own can result in excluding others from assisting you in bringing your own values into material transformation.

Dynamic

When you are willing to communicate openly and to acknowledge that the ideas of others can be as valuable as yours, you can discover that these ideas may actually transform and enhance your own. You can decide to use other people's ideas as resources; thus, your own concepts gain acceptance through the resultant transformation. When you listen to others and communicate those Taurus perceptions of how their ideas can produce tangible results, your sense of self-worth can be increased.

(Grant Lewi)

You are eye-minded; that is, you get your maximum sense-contact with the world through sight rather than through sound. You get more from reading a book than from hearing a lecture. The old silent movies are almost as good for you as talkies. Since what you see is important, you will always strive to make your surroundings as attractive as possible; and for this reason your home, or your office, will have some beauty about it even when it gets disorderly. Touch is well developed, and you visualize through your fingers - get an image in the dark of something touched, know how a fabric will look by feeling it - and conversely, how it will feel by looking at it. Taste and smell are fairly well-marked. You can shut out sound from your life and live calmly through a hurricane or the squawking of children that would drive others to distraction. You don't hear the sound of your voice accurately; and sometimes for this reason you sound other than how you feel. Study elocution, and learn to pay attention to what meets your ears.

(Sydney Omarr)

In Taurus, Mercury tells of one who gains more from sight than sound: he gains much from reading, from visual demonstrations, from watching, observing, absorbing knowledge. He may appear slow to learn; but once his lessons are learned, they stick. He can be obstinate, but also loyal. He has strong likes and dislikes - but generally the native is diplomatic. He can smile at you - but it is not easy to know what he is thinking. He appears to be slow in speech, but this is because he measures his words.

(Skye Alexander)

You are the type who never speaks unless you have something to say. Not one to waste words or engage in frivolous small talk, you appear to be hoarding words as a miser hoards gold. Others sometimes assume (incorrectly) that you are unsociable or dull-witted. In truth, you aren't glib or articulate, and your vocabulary isn't extensive. Unless you also have several planets in more loquacious signs like Gemini, Sagittarius or Aquarius, it's not likely that you'll write the next great American novel. You prefer to communicate in other ways - physically, or through art or music - than with language skills.

This does not mean, however, that you aren't as intelligent as your more verbally adroit friends; only that you don't demonstrate your intelligence with words. Instead, you might be a brilliant painter, dancer or musician. You may not have been a very good student, and learning new subjects might have come more slowly to you than to others. Perhaps you never had an opportunity to develop your intelligence fully or to get a good education. As a result, you might feel somewhat inadequate or inferior about your mental capabilities even as an adult. When speaking before a crowd, you may become tongue-tied or feel awkward; and when you have to write a report, paper, even a letter, you often find yourself at a loss for words. Expressing what you really think and feel can be a struggle for you.

Your memory is good, however; and even though you may not grasp ideas quickly, you retain what you learn. You demonstrate common sense, and are able to apply your knowledge in practical ways. In particular, you may have a good head for business and finance. You are also known for your determination, steadiness and reliability.

You rarely take chances, and usually plan carefully before undertaking any venture. You like things to be clearly defined, down-to-earth and useful; and it is difficult for you to grasp abstractions or theoretical constructs. Not an 'idea person', you are a doer rather than a thinker - the one who brings the dreamer's visions to fruition. As far as you're concerned, an idea is useless unless it can be applied in some tangible, physical way. Although you aren't going to set the world on fire with an exciting or revolutionary concept, without your persistence and common sense all those 'brainstorms' would never become realities.

Philosophically conservative, you hold onto traditional ideas and beliefs firmly, and are not easily swayed or influenced by popular opinion or the attitudes of others. There is a sense of security in concepts that have been around for a while; and you don't see why things can't remain the same forever. You want everything to be simple and clear-cut; ambiguity, complexity and 'gray areas' baffle you. Once you've made up your mind, you aren't likely to change it, and can be extremely stubborn. Taurus's symbol is the bull; and the term 'bull-headed' certainly applies to you.

If your chart contains aspects between Mercury and Jupiter or Uranus, you'll be more talkative and intellectually expansive, and more eager to pursue knowledge for its own sake.

(Marion D. March and Joan McEvers)

You are stubborn and have definite likes and dislikes. Acquisitive and fond of money and material goods, you are interested in both the arts and the opposite sex. Your mind does not react readily to new ideas; and once you start a project you rarely give up. You never jump to conclusions; you like to hear all the evidence first. Mentally you are conservative, cautious and constructive. You depend more on life experience than on book learning. Your memory is good, and your approach is traditional. Your mind is practical; and this is an excellent position for business and management. If

this placement has difficult aspects, you can tend towards mental inertia, but trying to push yourself into action will not help; you need to work at your own rate of speed.

(Frances Sakoian and Louis Acker)

Mercury placed in the sign Taurus indicates natives whose thinking and decision-making are determined by whatever has a practical, material and financial application. Although perhaps lacking in brilliance or originality, they possess much in the way of practical common sense. Hence they have shrewd business minds and a natural bent for management. They are slow to form opinions, but once they do they are reluctant to change. Similarly, they dislike argument and disharmony, and will fight only to protect their security and financial interests.

The ability of these natives to consider only things that are of practical concern to them gives them great powers of concentration, such that they can ignore extraneous disturbances as if they did not exist. They do not perceive that with which they do not want to be bothered. If carried to far, this attitude makes them blind to important matters that they should recognize for their own good, and explains much of their stubbornness.

This position of Mercury can give mental ability in the arts. If Mercury is strongly aspected, there can be talent in mathematics and physical science, because of the Taurean - Venusian sense of form and structure which is translated into mental understanding through Mercury. If Mercury is afflicted in this sign, there can be intellectual obstinacy, opinionated views, materialism, and avarice.

(Julia and Derek Parker)

Thinking is steady, but the subject may be rather slow to learn. Parents of children with this placing must not worry if they think the child is not responding to teaching, for if gradual progress is maintained, what is learned will be remembered and form a good foundation for the future. Stubbornness (to a greater or lesser degree) is almost inevitable, and flexibility must be cultivated, otherwise opinions can become so entrenched that the individual may become proud of them, perhaps saying 'Once my mind's made up that's it'. Conversely, we find others who pretend to be very fixed in their opinions, and go all out to shock people in the way they express them! However, caution and much practical common sense are always present, sometimes coupled with a conservative and conventional outlook. The ability to plan constructively is considerable, with a methodical and disciplined approach to problems and to work. Obsessional tendencies are possible, and perhaps an inclination to get in a rut because it offers security. She will usually express herself with considerable charm.

If the Sun sign is Aries, Mercury in Taurus acts as an excellent stabilizer to the impetuous Arian. The ability to think slowly and constructively is an asset, and the chances of impulsive or reckless decision-making are very much mitigated. There is plenty of common sense, and the individual will have no difficulty in pacing him- or herself when making plans or preparing for any kind of examination or test. Sometimes Arian selfishness can be exacerbated by stubbornness, and there will be an inclination to reject both faults when they are mentioned.

If the Sun sign is Taurus, here is a 'salt of the earth' type - what is said is meant, so the individual is reliable. However, quick responses and the ability to get moving, both physically and mentally, must be developed. Taurean stubbornness and dislike of change will certainly be present. Every opinion will be cautiously and carefully considered, as this is the strong, silent type, only speaking when he or she has something really worthwhile to say. The grasp of situations and acquisition of

knowledge will be slow, but comments will be deliberate; thoughts are charmingly expressed. Time is needed to assimilate new ideas.

If the Sun sign is Gemini, considerable stability is added to the lively, quick, versatile Sun-in-Gemini type, and will greatly assist her to think more carefully and constructively, even adding a little patience at times. Practical common sense is usual, and the individual will assimilate facts well; brightness of personality is not diminished. Geminian restlessness is less likely to be a problem, and the need to communicate will remain strong. This is an excellent anchorage for Sun sign Geminians.

(Lyn Birbeck)

You have a steady, though potentially stubborn, mind.

You see life in terms of having to be practical and make sense, and so you approach matters concerning Other equipped with the ability to create and maintain material or physical stability; in terms of patiently and consistently considering what you see as all the relevant factors until a realistic and enduring solution is reached; and in terms of nothing worth getting too upset by.

You tend not to see deep emotional issues that require a more psychologically or spiritually informed awareness, giving rise to Other feeling blocked or misunderstood. You tend not to see what is bothering Other; or that some issues need dealing with spontaneously or swiftly, because otherwise matters are in danger of deteriorating.

(John Townley)

For you, love is not a highly technical affair, as it is for some others, but a direct encounter of feelings between two people. Rather than choreographing a sexual encounter ahead of time, you prefer to let it happen spontaneously.

On the other hand, you really enjoy making love in rich and sensuous surroundings, either natural or man-made, and the lush the better. Indeed, making love in a steaming tropical jungle could be most pleasing, but be sure the vegetation is not poison ivy. A velvet and brocade bower is a more readily available setting that can satisfy the same sensuous taste. The richer the setting, the more intense are your feelings.

You shouldn't spend too much time preparing the mood or setting for love, however. Too long a delay without actual sexual expression tends to bottle up your feelings, making it difficult to express them naturally when the time comes. Like food, sex needs to be partaken of regularly, even if it is simple fare. Too great a hunger can spoil an elegantly prepared meal. Whereas some people can sublimate their sexuality in other areas, you are at your best if you express it directly and often enough to avoid frustration or tension. A lover who has similar tastes and needs will keep you happiest and on a sexually even keel.

(Robert Hand)

You think very slowly and carefully, and arrive at conclusions only after much thought. People may think that you are not too bright, but that is not true. It is just that you want to take enough time to be sure that your thinking is solidly based. You like to have ideas presented correctly, with drawings or other visual aids if possible. It is easier for you to think about an idea if you can see it. Many people with Mercury in Taurus have trouble with mathematics, because it is so abstract and hard to bring

into your everyday world. You demand to know the practical use of every subject. You are less concerned with whether something is true than with how useful it is.

You think with your feelings a lot, and you will reject a logically correct statement if it doesn't fit with your feelings. Common sense and experience are very important to you in making decisions. However, you hate to have someone try to talk you into something that you don't agree with. You are very stubborn and slow to change your thinking, but this prevents you from making rash decisions. You are likely to work well with your hands, because you take the trouble to do everything correctly.

(Freda Edis)

Where Mercury is in Taurus, there may be much common sense and many practical ways of thinking. People's minds are likely to be fixed on a materially secure and worry-free environment, and they can be stubborn and inflexible in achieving these goals. Aphrodite herself always knew what she wanted, and frequently got it. When this tendency is carried to extremes, others may see these people as grasping and narrowly focused, unable easily to let go of ideas they have taken so long to formulate. We know that throughout the exchange between Hermes and Apollo and Zeus over the stolen cattle, Hermes never let go of the fundamental idea that he wanted divine status on Olympus. Bargaining about the ownership of Apollo's cattle is a significant symbol for Mercury in Taurus people.

They often have an appreciation of well-structured and harmonious patterns of thinking; and the placement can indicate an ability in written and verbal forms of expression. Once their minds are made up, their powers of concentration are great, but they may need to be aware of a tendency towards intellectual obstinacy and fixed patterns of mental expression. Flexibility of thought and a continuing curiosity about the world may help to offset these inclinations, as it did Hermes when he made concessions to Apollo and bartered some of his own possessions after the theft. He was able to let go of some of what he most valued in order to have the one thing he really desired - divinity and recognition from his father.

(Marcia Moore and Mark Douglas)

Keynote: Thoughts are communicated with deliberation.

Symbol: A banker explains a financial statement.

Since Taurus is slow and Mercury is the mind, the individual with Mercury in Taurus will be slow to make up his mind. Once it is set, however, he stands by his word. His ideas coagulate like a pudding that has jelled. It may not be possible to mix in new concepts without mental disruption, but his thoughts can be turned out in a literary or artistic mold.

This individual may delay in deciding what he wants out of life; but when he does embark upon an enterprise, he follows through. Once an idea has been implanted in his mind, it is solidly rooted, and he will amass great quantities of information on the subjects which capture his interest. As a scholar, he refrains from jumping to conclusions. In fact, it is beneath the dignity of most Taureans to jump at anything. They prefer to reach their goals by pacing steadily along a well-marked highway and consciously avoiding the distractions of enticing bypaths.

The typical Taurus is stubborn and persevering, and will struggle mightily to gain the satisfactions he craves. Since Mercury can be flighty and abstract, the persistence of the sign enhances the planet's material effectiveness, especially with regard to making more money. The financial acumen of Mercury-Taurus people proves that it

takes more than mental brilliance to produce wealth. Often the plodding, utilitarian thinker can magnetize money, while the more scintillating intellects, whose vision is attenuated by abstract ideas, cannot make ends meet.

The danger of this position is mental inertia. The efforts of Taurus to incorporate the elusive qualities of Mercury can be like harnessing a bull to a butterfly in order to combine strength and lightness. The volatility of this airy planet is so incompatible with the massive solidity of the sign that they may have difficulty in co-operating. Generally, it is easier for the person with Mercury in Taurus to absorb knowledge from practical experience than from teachers in school. He is less interested in theories than in workable techniques which can be applied to the problems of everyday living.

If the Sun is in Aries and Mercury is in Taurus, Arian inventiveness can be applied to the production of objects of a practical nature. Such an individual may be both a trail-blazer and a road-builder. He knows how to promote ideas and make them materially effective.

The Sun and Mercury in Taurus encourage the desire to bring about concrete achievement and visible results. The mind is concerned with problems of relative values and with originating methods for accomplishing work with maximum ease and efficiency.

If the Sun has moved into the sign Gemini, a basic urge to communicate will be expedited by a graphic sense of form and design. This combination can make a compelling writer with a talent for producing memorable images. Special interest will be taken in the reproduction and transmission of the spoken word.

Mercury in Taurus is particularly favorable for occupations pertaining to the earth sciences and the transportation industry. From this position alone, it is not possible to say what vocation a person will follow. However, one can surmise that in all undertakings he will apply his mind in down-to-earth ways and find pragmatic ways of linking supply and demand, and manipulating the resources at his disposal with determined intelligence.

(Isabel Hickey)

Here is a slow plodding, conservative type of mind. Learns more from travel and experience than from textbooks. A strong inertia that can become stubbornness. Pushing facts at this type of mind will not help. They are 'eye-minded', and touch is more developed than hearing. There is a cautiousness here that is based on an inner security; and because of that insecurity, what they possess - whether things or people - are clung to with a tenaciousness that is very grasping. There is an artistic side to this position, for Venus is involved through its rulership of Taurus.

Natal Mercury in Gemini

(Skye Alexander)

Your mind is always active, always seeking. You want to know something about everything, and eagerly pursue each new idea that comes along - for a little while, at least. Like a butterfly flitting from flower to flower, you enjoy sampling a bit of everything but rarely stick to anything for very long. There's always something more interesting just over the next hill. One day your passion might be archaeology, the next day stock car racing, and the next gourmet cooking. You're the sort who'll try anything once, but you haven't the determination or focus to develop any of your

many interests and hobbies into a serious avocation or career. In short, you're a dabbler.

You skim the surface, picking up odd bits and pieces of information about a wide variety of subjects, but rarely probe deeply enough into any of them to become truly knowledgeable. Your concern is collecting not evaluating, and you have trouble discriminating or deciding what information is useful and what is drivel. With such a storehouse of random figures and facts, you could be a whiz and crossword puzzles and games like Trivial Pursuit. You collect things in the same way, purchasing 'bargains' whether you need them or not; and you can be something of a pack rat.

Mentally agile and clever, you learn quickly and joyously; as a child you were probably a favorite with your teachers. In particular, you excelled at languages and all subjects that involve communication skills: typing, computers, literature, creative writing. A lifelong student, you not only want to gather as much information as possible, but also wish to share it with others. Thus, you might enjoy being a teacher, especially at elementary levels where you'd have a chance to teach a variety of subjects.

A voracious reader, you enjoy the classics, trashy paperbacks, and magazines, and even may peruse the encyclopaedia or dictionary on occasion. It is most likely that you read the great works of literature at some time or other, but missed the deeper significances; and dark, brooding emotional dramas - by Racine, Dostoyevsky or Joyce, for instance - seem to you much ado about nothing. Philosophy, psychology and metaphysics don't interest you much either, for you have difficulty grasping abstract or theoretical concepts and holistic views. Your worldview is almost childlike in its naiveté, and you simply can't comprehend the complexities of human nature in the cosmos.

Your love of the written word may led you to become a writer yourself. Unless you have strong Saturn aspects or other stabilizing influences in your chart, however, you'd be better at composing short pieces - newspaper articles, advertising copy or short stories - than full-length books. So many ideas vie for your attention that you are easily distracted from the project at hand, and generally lose interest almost as soon as you start.

Communication in all its myriad forms is central to your existence. You maintain a large circle of friends, associates and acquaintances with whom you speak frequently, and you stay in touch with the ones who live far away via 'phone or letters. You love to talk (even though you aren't always the best listener) and are never at a loss for words. Because you possess at least a smattering of knowledge in many areas, you can find something to say to everyone you meet. You enjoy meeting new people and sharing ideas with them - each individual you encounter teaches you something. Friendly, cheerful and outgoing, you're a good person to have at social gatherings and parties for you keep the guests interacting with each other and the conversation flowing.

Word games, crossword puzzles and card playing are favorite forms of amusement for you. You also enjoy taking classes, attending lectures, visiting museums and historic sites, making short trips, shopping (especially at flea markets and bargain centers), and talking with friends - anything that teaches you something new and / or engages your facile mind briefly without taxing it, allowing you to display your cleverness.

Mercury and Gemini rule the hands; therefore this planetary position signifies a high level of manual dexterity and agility. Perhaps you are skillful at playing a musical

instrument, draw well, enjoy handcrafts such as quilting, weaving or basketry, or are accomplished in a sport that requires good hand-eye co-ordination, like baseball or tennis.

Saturn or Pluto aspects to your Mercury will help you to focus your restless and flighty mind, and improve your memory.

(Frances Sakoian and Louis Acker)

Mercury placed in the sign Gemini is in the sign of its rulership. If it is well aspected and strongly placed by house, pure, logical reasoning can be carried to its highest expression. The Gemini Mercury is versatile, unbiased, and impersonal in its ability to perceive the truth because Mercury in Gemini is more concerned with facts than with attitudes and personal preferences. People with a well-developed Mercury in Gemini are capable of deep scientific thought. They are generally well-educated, knowledgeable on many subjects, and able to communicate easily, rapidly and accurately in speech and writing. They usually have an excellent vocabulary, which is one of the secrets of their eloquence and clarity of expression.

People with Mercury in Gemini have a highly sensitive nervous system which makes it difficult for them to shut out external stimuli; all speech and activity in their environment is registered with intensity and vividness in their awareness; and they are forced to deal with many thoughts and impressions at once. This is the basis of their agile minds, which have the capacity to register two impressions or think two thoughts almost simultaneously. However, if these people are subjected to complex, busy environments for too long a time, their nerves become frazzled; fatigue, confusion, and sometimes irritability will follow. Therefore, they need periods of solitude to become quiet, meditate, and refocus their minds.

People with this position of Mercury possess an intense curiosity; they want to know about everything. But they run the risk of spreading themselves too thin and dividing their attention too often; they may lack the continuity of purpose to complete the projects they undertake. When this tendency is carried to extremes, it produces the typical 'Jack of all trades and master of none'. Because it is possible for these people to see any situation from many points of view, they can experience difficulty in making up their minds, and may change their minds often, thereby confusing others. In extreme cases they earn the reputation for being fickle.

Only Mercury in Aquarius can equal this position for mental originality. The inventive minds of the natives are adept at finding new and surprising solutions for problems and emergency situations. These people need to be well educated in order to make the best use of their mental capacities. This position is common among scientists, mathematicians, computer experts, secretaries, writers, reporters, teachers, and lecturers.

If Mercury is heavily afflicted in Gemini, there can be incessant talk about trivial matters which is an annoyance to others. The horoscope of an undeveloped person may reveal a tendency to get sidetracked and miss the main issue.

(Julia and Derek Parker)

Here Mercury is placed in one of the signs it rules, strengthening its influence. It gives a considerable need to exchange ideas and opinions; and generally the subject likes to be heard and really needs to communicate with others - from talking to the next person in a line to participating in public debates. He or she is able to think very quickly and be involved in more than one task at a time, perhaps talking on the

telephone while making notes on a quite different matter! Quick decisions will be made, but not necessarily adhered to, for the mind is often changed - sometimes with the individual denying that this has happened. Facts will be a bore; so in an exam., for instance, there is a tendency to show off opinions at great length without the support of real knowledge or long, hard study. Often, too, there is a flair for selling. Impatience - especially with people of a slower turn of mind - is common, and the individual will easily be able to talk his way out of tricky situations. Adaptability is a great asset, but at all times superficiality of thought and action must be guarded against. Look for other elements in the chart to counter such traits. Cunning and craftiness may also be present.

If the Sun sign is Taurus, the slow, steady Taurean type will be less aided by quick thinking and be far less stubborn than those with Mercury in other signs. While still liking routine, there is less chance of getting into a rut, since the strong influence of Mercury will add some versatility without sacrificing the excellent Taurean sense of purpose and determination. The subject will take a less conventional, more up-to-date outlook on life, and be able to reassess his or her opinions with the passing of time. Any Mercurial superficiality is unlikely.

If the Sun sign is Gemini, the subject has many Geminian characteristics, especially those strongly relating to Mercury - i.e. the need to communicate, quick thinking, changeability of mind, versatility, and the ability to talk his or her way out of difficult situations. Geminian faults (superficiality and restlessness) must be guarded against. Very often there is a tendency to question the self when the emotions are aroused, since they can be mistrusted; he must justify these reactions to his own satisfaction. If the speedy thought patterns can be controlled there is more than a touch of brilliance. Inquisitiveness is common.

If the Sun sign is Cancer, Cancerian changes of mood will be exacerbated by Mercurial changes of mind, but this placing will counter the Cancerian tendency to over-sentimentality, endowing the individual with more forward-looking thinking and planning ability. The high emotional content always present in Cancerians will be spiced with an element of scepticism, so that the out-and-out romanticism and sometimes over-colorful imagination is less likely to get out of hand. The Cancerian memory, which is usually excellent, should not be impaired; and this Gemini / Mercury influence will speed up decision-making; and, most importantly, help mitigate the overwhelmingly powerful Cancerian tendency to worry.

(Isabel Hickey)

Here the senses are keen and alert, almost too much so. This is a very restless mind, and there is apt to be an overdevelopment of the 'thinkbox' at the expense of the vital forces. Restless anxiety and overwork can lead to a breakdown. Anyone with this position of Mercury needs a quiet time every day in order to get away from themselves and the world of appearance. Mind is clear but intellectual rather than instinctual or intuitive. Apt to jump to conclusions and miss the necessary facts. Can be silly but never stupid. Great versatility, but lacking in steadiness. With planets in Taurus, there is more stability for this position of Mercury.

(Jan Spiller and Karen McCoy)

Static

If you are afraid of losing the ability to connect on a surface level with a variety of people and ideas, your rational mind might become submerged in superficial thinking. This master of trivia can collect bits and pieces of information that may or

may not be of any practical value. Indulging in the Gemini tendency to flit from thought to thought may result in a great deal of talking and no true communication.

Dynamic

When your attention is concentrated on any one of your many interests, your quick mind, adaptability, and pure logic can bring about clear communication with a variety of people. By focusing, communicating clearly, and reaching a conclusion before moving on, you can cease to be the perpetual student and are able to teach and direct others to various sources of knowledge.

(Grant Lewi)

All the senses are keen and alert. The ability to react to shades of difference of light, color and sound makes you sensitive to beauty and needful of gratifying your senses with art (visual) and music (auditory). Too great awareness of everything that goes on around you tires your nerves, and you need solitude and dim lights once in a while to give your sense a vacation. You frequently give the impression of a hound sniffing the air to catch some scent in it - of having all your 'feelers' out for whatever is going on. Your sense reactions are impersonal, detached and critical; you have likes and dislikes, but they don't elate or depress you. To you it is joyous to live in a world that continuously gives exercise to your senses; you know that a sight, sound or smell that you don't like isn't going to plague you forever - another that you like better will replace it; and even this, too will go its way and should not be mourned, because something else is tripping over its heels to get into the limelight.

(Sydney Omarr)

In Gemini, Mercury keynotes versatility, and a tendency toward scattering forces. The native is inventive, has wit and humor, and is capable of acquiring knowledge through travel and reading. He tends to be nervous because he 'takes on' the problems and foibles of those around him. It is important for the astrologer to make the native realize the importance of his surroundings. If they are not orderly, the native's thoughts wander - he becomes discouraged and depressed. If, on the other hand, his surroundings spell out discipline and orderliness, then the native begins to think clearly and his work reflects this state of mind. Often he is in love with life, but can find it difficult to remain faithful to one person. It is possible for the native to love more than one individual at the same time.

He can break with convention and announce he is willing to let the chips fall where they may. But inwardly, there is apt to be confusion, for that sense of the orderly cannot be denied. The astrologer must help the native realize this apparent contradiction and come to terms with it.

(Lyn Birbeck)

You have a clever, though potentially crafty, mind.

You see life in terms of contrasts such as interesting or boring, bright or dull, relevant or inapplicable - and you do so quickly. And so you get to the point, or dismiss it, easily and swiftly. You see life as being only as good as what is mentally assimilated, then imparted to or shared with Other - you communicate with ease and enthusiasm, in fact.

You tend not to see subtle or grey areas, and issues that you have rationalized as insignificant - but really it is because they are the ones that you cannot deal with

emotionally, and which inevitably give rise to difficulties with Other that your quick mind cannot simply cast aside. You tend not to see Other's point, because it does not form part of the reality that interests you.

(John Townley)

You have a distinct ability to express your sexual needs and desires verbally; and you are happiest with a lover who can express love on a mental as well as a physical plane. You can learn to use words with great erotic impact; and the better your love vocabulary, the more expressive your lovemaking will be.

This ability can be useful in simple courting as well as in making love, for your verbal expressiveness greatly enhances the experience. Indeed, you and your partner will derive much pleasure from erotic conversations or discussions. Even a 'phone call at the appropriate time can be turned into a love affair.

You may also enjoy discussing lovemaking with your lover both before and afterward, affectionately going over every detail and exchanging ideas about what each of you enjoys most. Fantasies are also a fertile topic, and your prolific imagination can dream up many scenarios that are impractical in reality but that are great fun to talk about.

Reading about sex will further enrich your fantasy life and give you new paths to explore. By developing and trying out a variety of sexual techniques, you can have a fuller love life and greater communication with your lover.

(Robert Hand)

Your mind is very active, restless and fond of change. You may get bored easily, unless something stimulating comes along. Your desire for constant activity may make you appear extremely nervous and unstable, but what is happening is that you mentally process the world around you faster than most people. This should make you a better-than-average student in school, as long as you receive intellectual stimulation from your parents. No-one wants to learn unless encouraged early in life.

One problem stemming from your desire for new knowledge and experience is that you may never really finish anything. Try to be disciplined enough to stay with one train of thought long enough to learn something from it.

You are fond of communicating with others; and in fact, you may be more talkative in childhood than grown-ups want you to be. You should learn to speak only when you have something to say instead of chattering merely to keep the airwaves moving, as you often do. On the plus side, you should become a fairly articulate speaker and good at expressing your ideas clearly in writing as well. Again, this talent will develop only in a supportive home environment. You should read a lot while you are young, because your mind can absorb a great deal of information in this way.

You may also be fond of travelling; and certainly you do not like to be tied to one place for very long. Even if you don't travel very far from your immediate circle, you always want to move around, even if it's just getting out of your chair and pacing around.

(Marcia Moore and Mark Douglas)

Keynote: Ideas are communicated clearly and rationally.
Symbol: A technician feeds data into a computer.

The person with Mercury in Gemini has the type of purely logical mind that cannot see why human beings insist upon making so much trouble for themselves. He is convinced that if they would only behave reasonably and look at their problems realistically, most of their sufferings might be avoided. It frustrates him that they do not run their lives more intelligently. In defence, he periodically retreats into a world of abstract studies where he can indulge his proclivity to arrange items systematically.

As ruler of Gemini, Mercury can vent its volatile nature in this sign without being continually impeded by practical considerations. It is plain to see why this light-footed lord of the mind, nerves, and of all tubes, wires, and channels of communication should have suzerainty over the sign of connections. Mercury carries the messages which link the diverse elements within a given system and enables the system as a whole to adjust to the environment. Thus, it bifurcates into the awareness of the inner and outer realms, which enables the conscious ego to look two ways at once and to relate the objective world of physical existence to the subjective world of ideas.

The Mercurial Geminian can use his mind lucidly and effectively in order to convey his own and other people's opinions. His thinking is neither instinctive in the manner of the Moon, Mars and Venus, nor intuitive in the manner of Uranus and Neptune, but is as strictly rational as he can make it. By clarifying issues and stringing ideas together in logical sequences, he endeavors to make facts speak for themselves. He has a compulsion to find out why things behave as they do, and is convinced that there must be a causal explanation for everything that occurs. Mystery-mongering irritates him. He has little patience with sentimentalists who allow emotion to befog their thinking. He likes to keep his ideas neatly sorted and defined, and makes it a point to void people whose intellects fail to grasp concepts that to him seem patently obvious.

People with Mercury in Gemini long to be as free as the air. They need not travel far to feel refreshed, but they must circulate and exchange ideas with compatible thinkers. They have an adroit sense of humor, and can often make a point by the clever couching of their phrases. This is an excellent position for a writer, speaker, or journalist. It also gives scientific acumen. Such people should enter professions which exploit their versatility and do not demand unremitting concentration on a single task.

Mercury in Gemini is often brilliant. For enduring accomplishment, however, this individual is better off collaborating with someone who can bring his ideas down to earth and turn them to material advantage. His facile mind lacks stability unless the Sun is in Taurus, in which case his thoughts may dwell on business and more practical concerns. Even so, he will generally keep one step ahead of his competitor through the use of his wits. With the Sun in Cancer, there will be a deeper, more sympathetic interest in the problems of other people, and a desire to speak out on their behalf. When the Sun and Mercury are both in Gemini, the mind prefers to function on the plane of pure reason, unimpeded by mundane considerations. The Sun in Gemini shows the intellect to be an uncommonly ingenious instrument. To discover how this tool is employed, however, it is necessary to consider the natal chart in its entirety.

(Freda Edis)

Mercury rules Gemini, and people with the planet placed in this sign can be good communicators, eloquent and with quick, versatile minds. They may place much

value on the power of logic and be unaware that emotions and intuition also constitute part of mental expression. We have seen this reflected in the many myths of Hermes's treatment of women. Logic and great curiosity may lead them to an awareness of many facts, but they don't necessarily help to discern the truth, be decisive, or become aware of other people's emotional needs. Some people with this placement may become confused because their minds are overstimulated by too many options. Attempting to keep all the balls in the air is as much an issue of control as one of fear.

Living with much nervous tension can cause them to be irritable and intense, and to tire easily. Their need for original intellectual expression in many areas of involvement may indicate much superficial knowledge, but with little depth of understanding. They may benefit from a commitment to developing their understanding of the interconnectedness of human nature and quietening their minds by focusing on fewer, carefully selected areas of interest and activity.

(Bernice Grebner)

If the Sun sign is Taurus:

This is really a very fantastic combination. The Mercury mind is flexible, acquiring much knowledge, and coupled with the practical, realistic, materially-oriented Taurus can give the native advantage in the business world. It indicates people who realize which idea will work and which one will not work. These people are very sharp and very willing to allow the Taurus ego to stabilize all ideas. It is similar to two people talking things over. The Mercury presents ideas, and the Taurus determines which is productive and which is not. In the final accounting, this represents people who can be way ahead of others because time is not wasted on trial and error.

If there is a rather conflicting attitude or influence, it is that the Taurus Sun may get into a rut or into stubborn determination, and will not listen to new and current ideas either from his / her own mind or from others. If this happens, there can be a stalemate in growth.

In one sense, these people know how to communicate with the populace; and, because of this talent, people begin to think they are easy and flexible, but just let some situation or a person touch a stubborn spot, and the old bull starts to snort, much to the surprise of those at hand.

This combination can represent the people who can become very successful executives, for their ideas can be very favorably centered on money-making deals and high finance. Whatever ideas come from Gemini Mercury, they can be made solid by Taurus, and usually turned into money or resources of some kind. If an idea strikes these people and the idea is really accepted, and if at first the idea doesn't work, they will try, try again varying the idea until finally it works. This can be very good for the Gemini Mercury, for there is much more stability, giving ultimate success with any given project. Not only does the Gemini Mercury makes this Taurus more flexible, but it gives more determination to the Gemini.

These are the people who can be one step ahead of all the others in their field of endeavor. This is true because of their ability to quickly judge an idea's practicality and workability, and also their ability at communicative repartee.

Here, too, is humor, which makes them much adored within their circle of relationships. But look out for the angry and mad bull, for he shows up at the oddest unexpected moments.

If the Sun sign is Gemini:

Sun and Mercury in Gemini has the talent for conveying not only what they have in their own minds, but also what other people think. These people are like telgraph wires in a lot of ways, and are capable of putting all the facts together, making a total point that speaks for itself to all concerned. Sun and Mercury in Gemini does not analyze or try to interpret for others. The facts are given in sequence, and the ideas are transmitted for you to interpret for yourself. This combination is not analytical or critical. They dislike experiences and facts that are fogged up. If these people have a fault or a lack, it is their inability to bring the ideas down to the practical, workable level. They leave this up to others to make the ideas workable, unless this Sun / Mercury in Gemini is trined or sextiled by Saturn.

With this Sun and Mercury both being in Gemini, the mind works well with and for the purposes of the (ego) Sun. There are no distortions, no dilutions. What you hear is what you get, right down to the full extent of the ego purpose. This is a position where the people possessing it do not like to take the trouble to see how an idea works or, as they put it, 'who wants to bother with the details of it'.

This influence allows those having it to take a lot of short little trips here and there. Sun / Mercury in Gemini likes travelling within short distances, as it may not appeal to them to travel to far away places.

They completely communicate all the purposes, desires and values of their Sun, and they fully understand the environment around them. They are aware of everything from the tiny bird singing in the yard to the smile of the child next door. From young on, they are aware of what they have to do in life. Their consciousness is fully alert at almost 100%. The Mercury door is fully open, and allows full awareness and approval of the Gemini way.

This subjectivity means freedom, freedom to relate to each person they meet on an individual basis, relating to others in a very human, person-to-person fashion. The subjectivity of Gemini/Gemini means seeing his piece of the human puzzle, whereas objective people see the whole puzzle. It is knowing 'no strangers'.

Being subjective is being able to relate to all those around you. It is being a part of the community, not being apart from it. Sun / Mercury in Gemini is the most subjective combination in the whole set of Sun / Mercury combinations. To express themselves by speaking, by writing, or in whatever form of concrete expression of life appeals to them, is breath itself to them.

All other things considered, this combination causes the people to think faster and move faster. The Mars sign is conditional to the speed of the movement. If they have an Earth Mars there may be considerably more stability and much slower action. With an Earth Mars, they may be less likely to be compulsive with activating ideas and thoughts, but may take time to plan. If they have a Fire Mars, the action is as good as accomplished immediately after the ideas hit their consciousness.

The people born with this Mercury / Sun are expression itself. Famous people born with this combination possess a variety of talent.

If the Sun sign is Cancer:

This is a position where the conditions within the family and with the home are the main purpose for ego satisfactions, so the Mercury in Gemini talent will have the

means of speaking out and communicating easily with family members and / or with conditions in the home. The urge is to communicate either emotional satisfactions or emotional problems. The need is to communicate with others and to sympathize on an emotional level and to understand. This emotional understanding and the expression of that understanding does much to alleviate the problems of others with whom they come in contact. These people do much to comfort others with words.

However, this could take a negative influence also. There can be a possibility this can lead to gossip, needless chattering about others resulting in tearing them down. A very positive influence with this combination is the ability to bring mental logic to the emotional side of their natures. When there is an emotional difficulty, the Mercury in Gemini mind can take over and bring reasoning back to the situation. In other words, Mercury in Gemini says 'let's talk about it'. This influence also gives the talent for expressing very deep emotions and bringing these emotions to the surface, which could not be done by the Cancer Sun all by itself.

Through their thinking process and their sensitive heart, they can take the whole community into their world like one big, happy family. They have the ability to pick up moods of others around them. This influence gives them the ability to combine the subjective approach in a caring fashion so that they can soon gain a reputation as problem solvers to a lesser or greater degree. The end-result would be 'the neighborhood listener' or emotional buff for others either in their personal little world or on a larger scale as a professional counsellor.

They should definitely have some artistic expression, even if only for their own satisfaction and as an outlet for their feelings. It would be emotionally healthy for them to get involved with painting, writing, poetry, dancing, or crafts as part of their daily therapy.

Mercury is a door or a mirror by which the ego (Sun) can reflect that which it has to do in this lifetime. Mercury can either work fully with the Sun or display some distortion. It is well to realize what elements are involved in this association and whether the Mercury will or will not work fully toward the destiny or goal. Never discount the fact that the combination of Mercury and the Sun is a kind of marriage, a marriage that individualizes the purpose for each person in this life. For example, a person who has a Cancer Sun, which indicates a certain purpose, but it depends upon which of the three Mercury combinations this Cancer Sun has, as to how more distinctive the purpose becomes. A Cancer Sun / Mercury Cancer destiny will be decidedly different from a Cancer Sun / Mercury Gemini or Mercury in Leo.

There is either going to be a conflict between the Sun and Mercury or an understanding of what each individual has to work with to achieve a grand and glorious distinctive destiny that can only be fulfilled by this combination of Sun / Mercury. In other words, don't fight it, join it; understand the combination. Let tolerance rule between the Sun and Mercury. I might mention that the solstice point for Gemini is Cancer, and as I see it the solstice point can indicate a potential solution to a personal problem.

Used at its best, this Cancer Sun and Mercury Gemini can be a problem solver either with the individual destiny or for others. But the solstice points are for another book, another time.

Natal Mercury in Cancer

(Jan Spiller and Karen McCoy)

Static

If you are afraid of losing your emotional connections with other people, your rational mind can become dominated almost entirely by Cancerian feelings and emotions. This might result in your communicating with other people in a way that inadvertently forces them to respond with either sympathetic indulgence or overt rejection. Indulging in communications that demand the sympathy of others may expose you to unnecessary rejection.

Dynamic

When your attention focuses on perceiving the sensitivities of others as well as your own, your ability to communicate goes beyond words. You are then able to reach out emotionally, sensitively, and empathetically in ways that are a true reflection of your caring for others.

(Grant Lewi)

What you hear, smell, taste, feel and see are of intimate and close concern to you. You are sensitive to every breath of air; you take it to your heart and cherish your reaction to it. The smell of the garbage truck is a personal affront to your nostrils, while the rose was created exclusively to delight the same. Loud noises persecute you, and you tend to think they were made for that purpose; while music is art's personal gift to you alone. You adopt the beauty of the landscape as if no-one ever looked on it with true worship before. This personalizing of sense impressions can make you an awful fuss-budget, and also a bore if you insist on telling everyone how much you love, or hate, everything. On the other hand, the sensitiveness of your reactions and the intimacy with which you regard them make you capable of great power, for art is only the personalized sense impressions of the artist, absorbed into the total personality and given forth in form. Add a point of view to your tendency to gush; develop a philosophy of beauty to give weight to your natural appreciation; learn to make sense impressions your own, and then release them into a significance larger than personal; and you have all the ingredients to make you a master in one of the arts.

(Sydney Omarr)

Mercury in Cancer is described by a major keyword: adaptability. The native adapts himself to his surroundings - but he can tend to fall into a rut instead of trying to change anything. He may know what he should do, but is simply too adaptable. He is discreet and realizes that others are loyal to their beliefs, their families, their countries - without this necessarily making them right in their feelings. Mercury in Cancer shrugs off combat; his attitude is one of 'live and let live'. But when conditions demand change or action, he is perturbed, often at a loss; he begins to brood, whine and complain.

Mercury here has a tendency to personalize his surroundings; the people he meets; and the things he sees, hears, smells and tastes. The astrologer's task, obviously, is to help the native draw his mental forces together, make them work for him, and refuse to take second best merely because it is convenient. His family is important to him, and so is a feeling that his loved ones are happy, even if they are far away. His mind is retentive; he loves the old and established. He is fond of antiques and fine old classics in literature, and has what might be termed an intellectual interest in food.

(Skye Alexander)

Your mind is focused on internal or personal issues, rather than on the outer world. You are something of an introvert, whose mental stimulation comes from within, from your emotional core. Thus it is difficult, if not impossible, for you to separate your emotions from your rational thinking processes. Your heart rules your head; and your decisions, opinions and ideas are colored by your feelings and your emotional attachments. You simply cannot step outside your own needs and desires to be objective. You take most things personally and see issues within the context of how they will affect you and / or your family; and you have trouble comprehending the larger picture. Because the source of your beliefs is emotional not rational, you cannot be swayed by a logical argument, and no-one can change your mind with reason or facts.

Your thoughts are often centred around your home and family. You're the type who monopolizes the conversation with stories about your children's latest accomplishments and talks about your grandchildren to total strangers. Your interest in the home and family also could lead you to pursue a career in an area such as interior design, real estate, family counseling or pediatrics.

Though you may not be adept with language or the written word, your ability to communicate non-verbally is keen. You seem to 'know' what others are thinking and feeling; and with your loved ones and close friends you may have an unspoken rapport that makes you appear psychic. Perhaps you are able to communicate best through a non-verbal medium such as art or music. When you attempt to express yourself in words, however, you often sound confused or nonsensical. No matter how good your ideas are, you have a hard time explaining them to others in a logical, orderly way. As a result, other people sometimes think you are less intelligent than you really are, which can cause you to feel insecure about your own mental abilities.

You are inclined to think a great deal about security issues and attempt to find ways to make yourself feel secure. Sometimes this can translate into seeking wealth and financial stability. You might involve yourself in money matters professionally - as a financial consultant, stockbroker, banker or estate planner - or simply put a lot of mental energy into money issues, investments, real estate, etc.. Your concern with financial security can make you miserly and tight-fisted at times, though you are likely to be quite generous with your children and family members.

A traditionalist, you hold on tightly to conservative opinions and attitudes. The 'old ways' make you feel more secure, and any new or different ideas can seem threatening to you. You want to surround yourself with others who think the way you do, who reinforce your beliefs and give you confidence that you are right in your convictions. People whose opinions conflict with yours are often viewed as subversives or enemies; and ideas that appear to threaten your security are deemed dangerous. Because you take everything so personally, you are likely to interpret differing opinions as attacks or criticisms of you. And because your thinking tends to be insular and narrowly focused on yourself and your immediate environment, you have a great deal of trouble understanding that others simply may march to a different drummer from yours.

Uranus aspects to your Mercury will make you more intellectually progressive, unconventional and fair-minded. Jupiter aspects will increase your sociability and expand your interest in people and cultures beyond your own family / community.

(Frances Sakoian and Louis Acker)

Mercury placed in the sign Cancer indicates a mind that is influenced by deep-seated emotional patterns. Unconscious desires will cause the person to look at some facts

and ignore others, the results being bias and prejudice and interference with objective thinking. At times, if Mercury is badly afflicted, the natives may be untruthful without consciously realizing it.

Mercury in this sign can indicate a good memory, because of the emotional intensity that is associated with the thoughts. There is also a tendency to absorb much information subliminally or to learn by osmosis. In fact, much of the mental process occurs on an unconscious level, although it is manifested as conscious intent. Since people with this Mercury position are highly susceptible to the attitudes and opinions of those around them, their thinking can be influenced by emotional appeals, such as patriotism. They are very sensitive personally; they believe that whatever is done or spoken in their environment is especially directed toward them.

Much of the thinking centers around the home and family. There is considerable business ability in matters related to food, domestic and consumer products, and real estate.

(Julia and Derek Parker)

An excellent memory and imagination is likely, but there is a tendency to look to the past - sometimes too nostalgically - so that forward thinking and planning can cause apprehension and worry because of having to consider and accept the unknown. It is important that the individual realizes that his or her imagination tends to work overtime, all too often negatively, so that when things go wrong (or appear to do so) they are turned from molehills into mountains. If creativity is indicated elsewhere in the chart, the imagination can be made to work in this way, perhaps through writing or telling stories. A love of the past may be seen in a fascination with history, so long historical / romantic novels or family sagas will be enjoyed - or even written. There is usually tenacity, especially when studying, but the subject may change his mind, perhaps mostly when emotional reactions clash with logical thinking and the assessment of situations. The Sun and Moon signs often show which response will dominate.

If the Sun sign is Gemini, considerable intuition and a powerful instinct are added to the Gemini traits. The imagination is likely to be expressed through writing or perhaps some form of handicraft. The placing adds a measure of sensitivity - especially when the individual is assessing other people's reactions - making him or her more sympathetic than critical. It can cause even the most rational Geminians to worry, but nevertheless logic should eventually rule the day. The individual should recognize that a changeable mind can cause problems to loved ones as well as herself.

If the Sun sign is Cancer, the Cancerian imagination is increased and must be given positive or creative expression. Undue worry is extremely likely; and if pessimism or depression are hinted at elsewhere this placing will increase such possibilities. Intuition and love of the past will be enormously enhanced, as will moodiness. The thinking process is almost totally intuitive; and ideas, thoughts and decisions will be made quite instinctively, which is right for this combination.

If the Sun sign is Leo, intuition and sentimentality are heightened, with the imagination put to excellent use. Leo optimism will help to overcome the Cancerian tendency to worry, but Mercury adds kindness, consideration and sympathy, making the subject less dogmatic and bossy. Mental flexibility will also be an asset; and caution and shrewdness act as a good counter to Leo's fire. The high emotional level of Leo is increased by the more sensitive, emotional element of Mercury in Cancer, increasing, for instance, Leonine appreciation of splendid theatrical or musical

performances, and allowing a full expression of feeling toward loved ones. You have a sympathetic, though potentially moody, mind.

You see life in terms of comfortable and uncomfortable situations and ideas; and so you discuss matters with a view to creating a feeling of safety and avoiding confrontation. Other feels reassured by this, and so consequently is receptive to your point of view. You try to be receptive to Other and thereby develop mutual understanding.

You tend not to see what you do not want to see, because certain issues remind you of feelings of insecurity that have more to do with the past (childhood) than the present. As Other tries to push his or her point home, disagreement and argument ensue, which is ironic, seeing as unpleasantness was what you were trying to avoid in the first place.

(John Townley)

Although you have a fertile imagination, you share your fantasies only with your dearest and most trusted friends. This part of your life is very private, and those few who share it are privileged indeed.

Don't be too cautious about sharing your feelings, however, because even a casual lover should know something of what is going on inside you. Otherwise you will not reach a satisfactory level of love and communication in an affair.

Once you are truly involved with someone, however, your lover becomes everything to you. For you, the ideal affair is one in which both partners are truly lost in each other, needing no outside contact or stimulation for happiness. Unlike more sociable types, you would enjoy being stranded with your love on a remote tropical isle with only each other for company and affection.

This may be the truest and most total form of devotion, but you should avoid being overprotective of your lover. That tends to have the opposite of the desired effect, making your partner feel cramped and in need of elbow room. As long as you both know that you are each other's firm refuge, that is enough for security and happiness.

(Robert Hand)

You often let your emotions tell you how to think, and you find it difficult to look at things objectively. But your mind is retentive, so that once you have learned something, you aren't likely to forget it. In fact you prefer ideas that you have known and understood a long time because they have become familiar. Certainly you can learn new things, but it isn't easy if they seem threatening or challenging.

It may be hard to drop your bad habits of thinking. Often you aren't aware of how or why you think as you do. Many of your beliefs and opinions come from your family, who are very important to you. As you get older, you may have some difficulty changing any wrong ideas that you learn now; so be sure that the beliefs you adopt really work for you and are of practical use in coping with the world.

When you are emotionally upset, your whole view of the world changes. At such times, don't take your outlook too seriously, because it will change again when you calm down.

Because you are naturally cautious in your views, you are not likely to get carried away by some new enthusiasm that later proves to have no real value. You are bored

by fads and much more concerned with proven ideas.

(Freda Edis)

Much emotional intensity is given to the thoughts when Mercury is placed in Cancer. People with the placement have highly sensitive minds and are likely to be protective and defensive of the way in which they think, rarely showing how they arrive at the conclusions they reach. While they have the ability to register information at an emotional level, they can also use this characteristic to withdraw into hurt and moody silence if they have been wounded by words. This happens because their thought patterns are influenced at an unconscious level by the impressions and people they become attached to; they can become cranky and stubborn if these are unharmonious or unsettled in any way.

Often others see them as difficult to know and hard to understand, liable to bias and prejudice if upset. Bias towards her son was evident in Maia's protection of Hermes in the face of Apollo's anger - even though she knew that her son was concealing the truth. To help themselves balance such tendencies, people with Mercury in Cancer may benefit from cultivating some objectivity and detachment concerning their deeply emotional thinking patterns. If this does not happen, then they may, at an early stage of life, develop ways of defending their real thoughts from the people closest to them, much as Hermes did when he deceived his mother by hiding under the bedclothes, pretending to be asleep, after stealing the cattle.

(Marcia Moore and Mark Douglas)

Keynote: Perceptions are communicated sensitively and imaginatively.

Symbol: A poetic recitation stirs the emotions of a crowd.

People with Mercury in Cancer can sway the public with their oratory, but they need to guard against being so eager to make an impression that they gloss over their own convictions. They may be tempted to say what they think their listeners want to hear or are willing to accept. Thus, they gain a reputation for being opportunistic when they are really only anxious to please. They need to turn to their powers of introspection and be completely honest with themselves. Otherwise, their persuasions can too easily be altered by circumstances as they drift like rudderless sailboats blown hither and thither by every breath of opinion.

The mind is retentive, especially in matters pertaining to family history and bygone times. An instinctive feeling for the archaic gives them an aptitude for dealing with antiquities and an interest in museums. The ability to turn back to the past makes many Mercurial Cancerians natural psychologists. The works of Carl Jung, who popularized the idea of the collective unconscious and who write extensively on the symbolism of fantasies and dreams, typify this associative mode of thought. The shadow side of Jung's over-accommodating Mercury loomed up in his early willingness to co-operate with the Nazis, even though he soon repudiated their racist philosophy.

When Mercury is in Cancer, the mind may not be especially original, but a compensating psychic permeability permits the absorption of ideas without labored explanations. If the Sun is also in Cancer, the intuitive powers are intensified, but they may be denied recognition because of the reticence of the sign. The Sun in Gemini indicates a literary bent and gives logic and precision to a style which verges toward the fanciful. The Sun in Leo imparts a cheerful, whimsical approach to life which may be reflected in a picturesque style of verbal and literary expression.

Mercury in Cancer often gives deep sympathies and a vivid imagination. If such a person hears of a flood or earthquake in some part of the world, he can visualize the havoc created by the disaster and commiserate with the unfortunate victims. In extreme cases, the tendency to dwell upon melancholy images dissipates time and energy through worry about the vicissitudes of others and fear that similar troubles might befall one's own loved ones. No matter how dauntless a Cancerian may be, he is vulnerable where his family, especially his children, are concerned. He needs to avoid brooding over calamities, past, present, or potential, and to cultivate faith in his own reason and intelligence.

Mercury-Cancer people may not be outstandingly intellectual, but they are usually kind and well-meaning. They have a tolerance of human frailty based on an ability to sense the mental state of others and to sympathize with their problems and anxieties. They respond to feelings as much as to facts, realizing that if an individual feels something intensely, then this is a legitimate part of his world of reality.

Cancer brings out the passive side of Mercury, making the mind receptive but not always capable of discrimination. There is a liability to be swayed by appeals to the emotions, even against the dictates of common sense. If, however, mental stability and depth of purpose reinforce the innate sensitivity of the Cancerian, he may become the psychologist who studies the art of healing as well as the science of suppressing disease. This integrative kind of psychology does not require degrees or diplomas, but may be practised by anyone who genuinely wants to help others.

(Isabel Hickey)

Here is an extremely emotional and receptive mind that can be drowned in its own emotions if the person is not careful. Cancer rules the instinctual consciousness; and while there is sympathy and feeling strong, this sign is too receptive, and can be swayed by the senses too readily. Argument with this type of mind arouses stubborn resistance, but an appeal to its sympathy is the way to help it grow in understanding. Makes the mind passive, but not a stable position for the mind. They are extremely psychic people, and find it difficult to learn by study, but absorb knowledge by listening to others.

Natal Mercury in Leo

(Jan Spiller and Karen McCoy)

Static

If you are afraid of losing your dramatic impact and the loyalty of others, you might express yourself in ways that appear dictatorial, arrogant, and egotistical. This can result in one-sided communication that inadvertently implies everything you have to say is more important than what anyone else has to say. This unbalanced communication can unintentionally alienate those closest.

Dynamic

By being conscious of the effects you have on others, you may notice that the Leo dramatic ability to communicate can enhance or destroy what you are saying. This talent for communicating with a theatrical impact leaves a lasting impression, for good or ill. When the focus is on conversing with an awareness of shared humanity, you are able to energize the ideas of others with creativity and inspiration. By being aware of your love for others, you can instinctively express yourself in a way that inspires loyalty.

(Grant Lewi)

Your reaction to sense impressions from the outer world is less important than the way you react to the sound of your own voice, the figure you are cutting in the world. You see yourself in everything you see. You're hard to impress, for though you are detached enough in some ways, you haven't got your antennae tuned outward and just don't take in a lot that goes on. Your viewpoint is pretty fixed, and what comes to the senses is related to it. For this reason you aren't a very good observer. The outer world of sight, hearing, taste, smell and touch has to fight its way through a sort of steel plate before it reaches the brain centres and causes a reaction. Your reactions are slow, not because you are stupid, but because you aren't interested. You must cultivate attention, become consciously aware of the world around you, and develop your faculties, which are sound enough but need more exercise than you give them.

(Sydney Omarr)

In Leo, Mercury gives us a native who is apt to be subjective - he takes a known fact and applies it to his own life, thoughts, feelings, personal symbols. He takes the large view, doesn't like to think in bits and pieces, wants to see the project as a whole. He sees persons in relation to their lives, their abilities, their accomplishments. This native sometimes is overwhelmed with the difference in what he thinks he desires and what he actually surrounds himself with - including the people he loves and is loved by. He constantly criticizes himself, quietly, for not having the very best: he never doubts he is capable, but blames this minor mistake, that lack of appreciation, and so on down the line, until the series of links appears endless. Grass usually appears greener to Mercury in Leo, but he feels, somehow, that his ship is coming in, and that in the not too distant future he will be playing the tune and others will be dancing to his rhythms. Takes only time and determination, he feels. He is often arrogant, making others feel he thinks he is superior. He thus pushes people from him and then, so often, wonders why others don't recognize his great charms. It never occurs to him that perhaps he hasn't really been so charming after all!

He often is bored, and doesn't really make too much of a show of trying to appear interested. He feels he has a little extra to offer - and maybe he has. But the astrologer must make him realize that just thinking, feeling, believing are not enough - he must get down to the work of living, of being happy, of creating, of displaying the talents, charms and powers he knows he possesses. This is a very significant Mercury position, and the astrologer's job here is an enormous one.

(Skye Alexander)

Self-expression is one of your major concerns. It is very important for you to express yourself in a dramatic, colorful way and to be recognized for this. You probably have some creative / artistic talent and enjoy expressing yourself through art forms such as painting, design, music, theatre or dance. You may not be especially good with words, but are able to communicate loudly and clearly through visual media.

You enjoy being in the limelight, speaking to crowds of people, sharing your thoughts and visions with the multitudes. Even though your ideas and dreams may be grandiose and unrealistic, you believe they are possible, and your self-confidence and charisma are sometimes great enough to enable you to make your ideas realities.

You can be quite charming, even something of a flatterer when it suits your purposes. You especially love the idea of being in love, of being the lover. The drama of romance appeals to your sense of theatre; and at times your 'lines' sound as if they

were taken from an Italian opera. Though your message might be corny, over-blown and heavy-handed, you deliver it with such flair that it usually hits home. For you, love is a game to be enacted on the stage of life, and you relish playing the leading role.

You can be extremely self-centred, and your thoughts are usually focused on yourself and your ideas. It is hard for you to see another's point of view, because in your mind your own opinion is all that counts. That others might not agree with you never even enters your mind. Conversations with you often revolve around your latest accomplishments, projects or activities; and many of your sentences begin with 'I'. You want very much to appear important in the eyes of others. You may try to impress friends and acquaintances with all the famous people you know, and you can be quite a name-dropper.

Even if you are very intelligent, you might not have been a good student, partially because you don't value book-learning and partly because you don't really believe that anyone else knows more than you do. Perhaps you attempted to tell your teachers how to teach their subjects and insisted on doing things your own way. You rely solely on your own natural abilities and won't take advice or instruction from others; consequently, you sometimes shortchange yourself and don't develop your skills to their maximum.

(Frances Sakoian and Louis Acker)

Mercury in the Fire sign Leo indicates a mind that has a strong will and a fixed purpose. Natives with this position are capable of focused concentration, because here Mercury is disposed by the Sun, which bestows willpower and strength. They like to be regarded as authorities in their chosen fields, and they are aided by a dramatic and forceful manner of speech; but if carried too far, this inclination can produce excessive mental pride and arrogance.

The mental self-confidence indicated by Mercury in Leo makes for positiveness in tackling and solving problems. However, there can be a tendency to deal with things in large, general terms, thereby ignoring details. There can also be a tendency to overlook things that do not relate to the immediate focus of interest. Because Leo is a fixed sign, opinions are formed slowly and changed with reluctance.

People with Mercury in Leo do possess continuity of planning and purpose, which gives them executive ability. There is also ability in teaching and working with the mental development of children.

The theater, investments, the stock market, education, and artistic pursuits are likely to be areas of special interest. This Mercury position may well combine travel for pleasure with travel for work.

(Julia and Derek Parker)

Mercury in Leo contributes excellent planning and organizational ability. Tasks of all kinds are approached in a practical and rather conventional way; and while there is often considerable ability to think creatively, there is a tendency to be stubborn and inflexible, which often emerges in the young. The subject has plenty of determination, and considerable mental and nervous energy. Usually there are good powers of concentration, especially when studying. Speech can be dramatic, sometimes with a tendency to exaggerate. There is no lack of enthusiasm; and unless a pessimistic outlook strongly emerges from other areas of the chart (negative aspects between the Moon and Saturn, for instance), the individual will be very optimistic. Powers of

communication are good, but can at times be marred by a rather condescending manner, which should be mentioned to the individual since usually he or she is totally unaware of it. This placing, because it assists the organizational ability, encourages helpfulness to others, giving much flair in assessing and helping to solve their problems. However, dogmatic tendencies and bossiness can also be present.

If the Sun sign is Cancer, the outlook is positive and organizational ability is increased. There will be less tendency to worry irrationally, but the subject can be surprisingly bossy. Tenacity is enhanced, with the individual able to make long-term plans and stick to them. The thinking processes will be less purely intuitive, with ideas formulated constructively and then acted upon when the time is right. The Cancerian tendency to look to the past is kept under control - there will be no nostalgia longing for 'the good old days' - but there will be sentimentality. Enthusiasm will help the subject to overcome apprehension.

If the Sun sign is Leo, Leo fiery enthusiasm and optimism will be enhanced by positive thinking and increase organizational ability. However, the individual must be aware that bossiness and a dogmatic attitude can mar many of his or her positive qualities. The powers of leadership and ability to get things done are strong points; and dramatic flair when communicating ideas, expressing opinions and describing events will be very colorful and often exaggerated. Flexibility must be developed since stubbornness can be quite a problem.

If the Sun sign is Virgo, the strong Virgoan tendency to worry will be countered here; and because Mercury rules Virgo it will work very powerfully for the individual, in many cases also helping to temper the Virgoan lack of self-confidence and giving him or her a more positive and optimistic outlook. The Virgoan preoccupation with detail is less dominant; and there is usually a better grasp of an overall situation. Critical carping - a common Virgoan fault - can be colored by bossiness, but there is the ability to think creatively, and often considerable potential for creative craftwork. Literary flair can be present.

(Lyn Birbeck)

You have a creative, though potentially vain, mind.

You see life in terms of having a strong, informed opinion that enables you to plan ahead and in a big way. And so Other is impressed and reassured by what you have to say. You also see life in terms of being respected for what you think, say and do, and giving due respect to Other for the same - so mutual respect is important for listening and being listened to.

You tend not to see the finer but important details that are Other's concern, which when taken for granted could be used against you. You also tend not to see the point that Other is making unless it flatters your ego. This can include the objective facts of a critical situation which you could choose to ignore at your peril.

(John Townley)

This position is ideal for an easygoing relationship. You don't bother with the kind of highly detailed self-analysis that can get in the way of a natural love affair. Too much thinking spoils the spontaneity for you.

On the other hand, in a more involved or complex relationship, you may overlook or ignore the real problems that have to be dealt with in detail to keep the affair on an even keel. It is wise for you to avoid tangled relationships in which you have to

unravel many problems. If you do get into a complicated affair, rely on your partner or a close friend to help straighten it out.

Your idea of a good time with your lover is simple and direct - you prefer spontaneous pleasures to complex plans and arrangements, which tend to get in the way of a happy outing or celebration. The only caution here is that your mind may outdistance your body in capacity for enjoyment, which can lead to exhaustion.

(Robert Hand)

You are very sure that your ideas are right, and you like to make others think the way you do. You can think about new ideas and make them part of your own thinking, as long as no-one is pressurising you to do so. You are quite stubborn, and your pride is involved in everything you think or believe. If someone challenges your beliefs, you feel he / she is challenging you. But at the same time, your pride in your opinions makes you want to get at the truth. You aren't likely to believe something simply because it is pleasant or because everyone else agrees. You consider it very important to be right, which is fine as long as you make sure that you are.

You like to organize and direct others. You put a lot of energy into planning, so your plans usually work out well. You like to have people come to you for advice, which you are happy to give. Be sure that they really want your opinion, however, and try not to get a reputation for being a 'know-it-all', because then nobody will take your ideas seriously. Above all, when you are talking to someone, try not to act arrogant. If you do, the other person will resist your argument, even if you are right.

Whenever you have to solve a problem, you put a great deal of energy into it, and the more important the problem, the more energy you invest. However, you may ignore problems that don't seem important enough, when actually they are quite important.

(Freda Edis)

Those people who have Mercury placed in the sign of Leo are likely to have a strong-willed and authoritative form of mental expression. Like Apollo, they may be frank and outspoken, assertive when solving problems, wanting others to think well of their efforts. Sometimes they overstep limits when displaying these traits, becoming obstinate and impatient, and are then seen as arrogant and overly dramatic in speech and action. Usually self-confident and intuitively aware of the generosity of their thoughts, these people can sometimes overlook the need for detailed planning, content to concentrate on broad, general issues. They can become self-involved with their own mental processes, and excessively proud of their achievements in the world of ideas. Humility and tact are qualities which would help to balance some of the negative traits of this placement.

We see something of this, yet again, in Hermes's relationship with the leonine hero of Greek mythology, Herakles. He was renowned for putting himself through adventures which required all the personal resources he could muster. Sometimes, though, his foresight failed him. When he descended into Tartaros to capture the dog, Cerberos, his nerves were shattered by the ghosts of Meleager and Medusa; he aimed an arrow at Meleager and drew his sword on Medusa. It was Hermes who had to reassure him that they were only ghosts. Heroes find it very difficult to deal with the world of shadows with anything but their usual blunt self-confidence. In the lands of the dead, Hermes's rationality usefully came to Herakles's aid; the laws there are different from the ones above ground, and neither Meleager nor Medusa could die a second time. It meant that Herakles had to accept the underworld reality of their ghosts and had to find other ways past the terrors of the dark places. He fairly quickly let

Hermes take the lead for the next part of the journey, learning, it seems, some humility in the process.

(Marcia Moore and Mark Douglas)

Keynote: Bold ideas are cogently and enthusiastically presented.

Symbol: A statesman makes a speech into a battery of microphones.

The Mercurial Leonian is articulate because he really wants to impart his ideas and to elucidate the concepts behind these ideas. He impresses his audience with the warmth of his personality as well as with the pertinacity of the information he conveys. As an executive, he can make broad statements and summarize facts in such a way as to convince others that his is the only admissible point of view. He identifies with his beliefs so wholeheartedly that he may regard disagreement as a form of personal disloyalty. Consequently, he needs to be careful not to surround himself with 'yes men' merely to satisfy his ego.

This is an intellectually dynamic placement, since versatile Mercury distributes the Sun's light and makes it widely known. The effect is that of power from a central source flowing through many channels out into the world. The vitality of the sign combined with the verbal virtuosity of the planet of the mind to communicate concepts cogently. If restraint is lacking, there may be conceit and an inclination to pronounce dogmatic statements of opinion. However, since Leo is a Fire sign and Mercury is an Air planet, the two can blend compatibility, providing they do not produce a lot of hot air.

When the Sun is in Cancer and Mercury is in Leo, there will be a lively interest in programs for the common welfare, despite a basically retiring temperament. An individual with this combination will be drawn out of himself because of his desire to nurture the ideals with which he identifies, and to see them popularly accepted.

If the Sun and Mercury are both in Leo, a desire for prominence is coupled with a flair for conveying thoughts vividly and imaginatively. This combination favors artistic accomplishment as well as social success and recognition as a unique personality. Many short journeys may be undertaken out of a desire to work closely with others rather than to rely on the telephone or mail.

If the Sun has gone ahead of Mercury into Virgo, an ability for fine craftsmanship is enhanced by skill in formulating useful techniques. This individual is not so eager for renown as he is to make his methods known. Believing that imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, he wants to see the system with which he identifies given its rightful due. There may be a special interest in the healing arts and in the power of prayer to alleviate distressing physical conditions. In this case, the Sun and Mercury are in mutual reception, which is the equivalent of a conjunction. Mind and heart co-operate to produce objects whose beauty lies in their utility.

The Mercurial Leonian is usually so persuasive that he can sell his ideas, his handiwork, or himself, any time he really puts his heart into it. He has a distinctive style, yet there is seldom any desire on his part to be so different as to court obscurity. He wants to be understood and approved, and will go to great lengths to make his ideas presentable. The person with this combination feels that he has too much to say to hide his light under a bushel, and he likes to be reminded of that fact by the cheers of an appreciative audience.

(Isabel Hickey)

Mercury is the perpetual adolescent; and her the solar force makes a man out of him. Adds heart to brain; and brain without heart is the essence of all devilishness. A great deal of ambition; and, if afflicted, can be rigid and opinionated in viewpoint. Apt to be lazy in mental activity; and there is a need to cultivate more attention and exercise the mind. Gives a dignity and a sense of innate refinement. This nature, when purified, can be of very great worth when taken away from the personal levels, and given in service for Love's sake.

(Bernice Grebner)

If the Sun sign is Cancer:

Fire and Water. What a combination. What a difference Mercury makes. These people have basic retiring natures, but because of their great enthusiasm for community welfare and their foresighted and enthusiastic thinking, they will overcome their shy natures much more easily than Sun Cancer / Mercury Cancer.

The Sun in Cancer influence gives these people a talent for knowing what the public wants and needs at any given moment; and as a result, with the persuasiveness of the Mercury in Leo they can sell the public anything whether material objects, ideas or causes. When the ego is down, as the Cancer Sun is given to be at times, or when hurt, it can put a damper on the Mercury enthusiasm, putting the fire out temporarily. The Mercury in Leo fire cannot stay down or out for very long, for it is the nature of Leo to flare and excite, and when that happens Sun in Cancer egos go full speed ahead in a heat of steam.

Water has a way of winning out most of the time, but not with this combination of Mercury in Leo. The fixed proud Fire sign will not give in easily. We are referring to their ideas, foresight, and sense of drama; and coupled with Leo's ability for fun and games, life is mostly enjoyable for these people. With their Cancer perception and instinctive knowledge of public desires, and the Leo's ability to easily describe trends and popular concepts, they end up becoming very popular in any field with which they get enthused. They may communicate a sense of freedom, but behind this outward expression of freedom there is a strong sense of attachment and possessiveness.

Where their emotional life is concerned, they may be inclined to be overly enthusiastic, and then at another given moment swing to the other extreme. At times they are highly unpredictable. Once they believe in someone or something, they can be extremely dedicated and loyal. Life with them is never dull or unexciting.

They can have very dramatic appeal, can be humorous with the intent of being entertaining to the nth degree. However, behind this rather entertaining demeanor is a very sensitive emotional nature. The mind is full of fire and forges forward, and in many instances drags the ego Sun behind. The mind is fast, and sees way ahead; but there is a period of passive indifference cause by the Cancer Sun's emotional need to stay put in a given situation. Much will depend upon other planetary positions, as to how this will come out in the final accounting. Either this gives either steam, full speed ahead, or the Water Sun puts out the Mercury Fire. If the Fire is put out (ideas), then Mercury Leo has to start all over again with new ideas. However, do not discount Mercury in Leo's ability to transform an idea. These people have a lot of experiences with life, and so many starts and stops.

If the Sun sign is Leo:

This influence makes for very dramatic people. It gives quite a flair for words and

expressions. They have a strong drive for achieving attention wherever they go. Whether they actually become actresses and actors on a stage or whether they just become recognized as social kings and queens, their mark will be made. You can bet on it. They love a good time and have a way of making each person they contact feel important. Despite how Leo has been interpreted in the past as egocentric, this combination of Sun Leo / Mercury Leo when on the positive wave length cares for others, can get close to people, and can make others feel wanted and needed.

They are magnificent and magnanimous when operating at their best. The talent they have for educating young people is par excellence. When they deal with people they care about, they prefer the physical presence of the person so they can experience first hand this physical, expressional exchange. Above all, they like center stage for it is instinctive with them to please and enjoy not only for self but for as many others as possible. As a result, there are many facets to their personalities, for they can easily sense an atmosphere and play the right part. If there is any difficulty with this placing, it is that they must be sure they are performing and expressing for the comfort and well-being of those they are relating to, and not for their own ego satisfaction alone. In other words, 'look; I am pleasing you', but, above all, 'look how great I am'. In many ways they can lord it over others, but not always are they doing this consciously. A man with this combination may be doing it consciously, but a woman may not be projecting ego consciously.

Unlike Aquarius, they do not want to present ideas that are too individualistic, or ideas that can be equated with the masses. They want their ideas to be thoroughly accepted by others, but feel competitive if someone else tries to present the same ideas. Do not assume, however, that they will be humble, because they will not be. If they need applause from the crowd, it is so they can be further encouraged rather than just for ego satisfaction. Ego satisfaction is just an outward stance. Underneath this ego is the need for encouragement. This combination is full of fire and can never be completely humble, unless playing the part of humility can win a point. It is their nature to try to get to the top of the heap.

You will always know they are around. They love a good time with laughter and games of all kinds. They are anything but dull. If you see someone who is the life of the party, that person no doubt has this combination.

Also, never discount their need for power. It is always a question of degree as to how much power toward which they direct their energy. All depends upon other aspects from other planets to this Sun and Mercury. This is Fire, undiluted so they are very forward in their drive, never looking back once they have left. They cannot easily be delayed, for their sights are on going forward with gusto conquering new grounds.

It is surprising to find how many famous people have Sun Leo / Mercury Leo. It is a rather fearless combination with much daring. Other configurations that have as much fearless daring are Sun Aries / Mercury Aries, Sun Sagittarius / Mercury Sagittarius. It is the undiluted Fire signs that progress and hew out new territories with mind, spirit, and physical lands.

If the Sun sign is Virgo:

This influence can produce fine craftsmen, those skilled in perfecting an object that both is artistic and also has practical utility. The Virgo Sun can be rather humble and not so inclined to be egotistical. The expression of Leo represents the ability to express and perfect a method, or a technique that can also work for others. This combination indicates a mutual reception which adds to a fine integration of detail, utilitarian purpose and enthusiasm and foresight. They are much more fearless

because their thinking will not allow them to take a back seat. Granted they are still not going to be overly egotistical, but they will move forward faster in life than other combinations of Mercury to the Virgo Sun. Leo rules this position's mind and thinking, and Virgo represents the purpose of service and workmanship which will be expressed in an enthusiastic manner, making them much more capable of instilling in others an interest in their techniques. Another thing, they will enjoy what they are doing for it may be work to others but to them it is also entertaining.

They may have a sense of service to children and young people. This influence also gives a talent for teaching, but teaching in the context of expertise on a given principle or method. They would be more likely to be giving a class on how to become an expert in a given vocational sense (developing technique). They are experts in combining fun and games with practical utilitarian teaching or study. Perhaps, also, they find fun in service, or any place they can help.

This is Earth and Fire. The mind may come up with some very enthusiastic ideas at times, but the practical Earth ego will extinguish the Fire either as being unpractical or as being premature. In a positive fashion, Virgo will force the thinking to become much more thorough. Much will depend upon what the third house sign is in the person's chart. The third house sign will indicate what experiences the person will have to face.

Look at what the Virgo Sun represents. Virgo represents service to their fellowman, becoming the best kind of technician in their craft. They are the trouble shooters, those who easily get things back into a system after an upheaval. Virgo represents dealing with the everyday world of work, duty, and achievement. They build brick by brick until the structure is finished. It is the sign that causes the person to seek being a technician in some area. It is their destiny to take something and make it as good as humanly possible. When we deal with Leo, Leo always wants to make his presence known; but Virgo is rather a back seat person most of the time, so how does this go together? It represents a person who has a fine balance between humility and ego-status. This Leo Mercury helps give much more enthusiasm to a Virgo Sun that is exceptionally critical and sometimes too realistic. There is much more constructive vision that ultimately leads to a great deal of success.

Natal Mercury in Virgo

(Grant Lewi)

Sense impressions never reach you till they have been interpreted. What you see, hear, smell, taste and feel is swiftly given significance before it arrives at the reacting center of the brain. You never see just a chair; you see a beautiful chair, an old chair, a charming chair, a chair that looks comfortable or uncomfortable. You never hear just a noise; before you have heard it, it has been labelled pleasant or raucous or sweet or whatever. Your senses take the impression, hold it for ransom, and say to the brain, 'Name it and you can have it'. Thus you tend to card-index and catalogue every sense experience that comes to you. This leads to boredom, because pretty soon everything drops into its own niche and there is nothing new under the sun. Your pleasure in the physical world thus tends to diminish as life wears on; and through too much intellectualizing you can lose the zest for life. To get it back, try to regard things for their own sake. Remember that 'a rose by any other name would smell as sweet' and that you get more fun out of a kiss if you don't think of it as a deception of nature to encourage reproduction. Exorcise the demon of words from the temple of nature, and in the name of simple animal enjoyment throw away the dictionary!

(Sydney Omarr)

In Virgo, Mercury tells of a native who can be sharp but brittle. He can be aware, sensitive and alert, but subject to quick or mercurial changes and to an early breaking point. He needs to be made 'softer'. The astrologer must teach him to develop a greater attitude of acceptance. Perhaps the native analyzes too often, too much - and by the time he finishes, the flavor, the joy of whatever activity he is engaged in has gone. Because of self-criticism, he breaks down his own confidence, yet is surprised when others express a lack of confidence. He pushes too hard; he wants results, yet is sceptical when they finally materialize. He is cautious, prudent and versatile, and has good intuition, but he has to be so sure before taking a step that, in numerous instances, the step simply is not taken.

He can be methodical, so much so that subjects and persons take on a 'dry' flavor. The astrologer must encourage a greater degree of relaxation and confidence.

The native is fond of work which enables him to digest facts thoroughly and come up with conclusions. This is an excellent indication for an accountant, mathematician or individual in charge of seeing that others receive the best for their money. He can also be found teaching; and in photography, reporting, radio and television. This native is sincere, but tends to find himself with too many irons in the fire - and not enough fire. He is neat, careful about food, and often afraid to let himself go in relations with members of the opposite sex.

(Skye Alexander)

Your mind works in an orderly and organized fashion. Each step of your thinking process is carefully calibrated and predictable; your thoughts work together systematically and logically like the gears of a machine. Though you may not be the most creative of thinkers, you are certainly one of the most practical and efficient. You are the person who operates behind the scenes, figuring out how to make someone else's brainstorm work - the film editor who cuts and splices the director's 'masterpiece' until it makes sense, the tailor who takes the designer's sketches and turns them into whold cloth. However, unless you have your Sun in Leo, you probably don't get much credit for your contributions. Shy and timid, you often hold your tongue when you should speak up for yourself, then later complain profusely to friends and co-workers.

You have a good memory and can retain volumes of facts, figures and words. For example, many actors and actresses who must memorize hundreds of lines of dialogue have Mercury in Virgo. You learn best through repetition, and by applying what you've learned in some practical way.

Like people who have Mercury in Gemini, you love language and the written word and may have talent as a writer. You are more disciplined, organized and work-oriented than your Mercury-in-Gemini counterparts, however, and thus more capable of completing long projects.

You probably were a dedicated and conscientious student. You enjoy learning, and usually prefer to study subjects that can be applied in useful ways - especially ones that will benefir you professionally - rather than art, music or philosophy. Your interest in health may lead you to give medical advice to everyone you know; and you invest much mental energy in thinking, talking and worrying about your health.

It's hard for you just to take something at face value - you immediately start dissecting it to see what makes if function. In school, you probably loved

diagramming sentences and labelling the organs of a frog. As an adult, you might use your keen analytical ability in such fields as accounting, computer programming, medical research, auto repair or book editing. You enjoy trouble-shooting, discovering errors and correcting them; and derive satisfaction from setting things right. You have the patience to search column after column of numbers to find where the books are off, or to examine hundreds of laboratory samples to determine which bacteria are causing the problem.

A perfectionist, you can be a stickler for detail and exactitude. Your checkbook always balances, you have your car tuned every six months, and the letters you write to your mother never have any spelling errors. Since Mercury rules the hands, your perfectionism may be expressed as great manual dexterity, control and precision. Your perfectionism can also lead to negativism, pessimism and irritability, however, since nothing can ever meet up to your expectations. You tend to be overly critical and fault-finding with others and yourself.

Cautious and conservative in your ideas and opinions, you are a follower rather than an intellectual leader, and rarely initiate any unique or progressive ideas of your own. You are most comfortable with 'tried and true' concepts. Philosophy, metaphysics and theology probably don't interest you much - they're a bit too undefined and disorderly. Unless you can 'prove' something, you don't believe it, and you can be something of a sceptic. Because you refuse to open yourself up to knowledge that defies quantification in physical terms, you also are inclined to be self-limiting and narrow-minded.

If you have Uranus aspecting your Mercury, you'll be more unconventional and inventive in your thinking. If Neptune aspects Mercury in your chart, you'll be less analytical and methodical and more idealistic and creative. Mars aspects will make you more verbally aggressive and outspoken. Jupiter aspects will encourage you to be more optimistic and expansive mentally.

(Frances Sakoian and Louis Acker)

Mercury in Virgo is in the sign of its rulership, a position indicating an analytical mind with great practical reasoning ability. These natives insist on minute precision and accuracy to a level that can appear trivial to other people. They require orderly surroundings and efficient methods and procedures, especially in their area of work. This is the best position of Mercury for detailed scientific work and research.

These people achieve professional and financial success by acquiring a good education and specialized skills. Interest and ability in grammar can make them eloquent in speech and writing and proficient in languages. As a rule, they will insist on proper grammatical usage, spelling, and punctuation; and for this reason make excellent secretaries and correspondents. Unlike Mercury in Gemini, which is concerned with ideas for their own sake, Mercury in Virgo is interested primarily in ideas having a practical application for financial success and status. The person with this position is work-oriented, and consequently may be shy and retiring, preferring not to waste time in idle conversation.

Medicine, diet, hygiene, mathematics, and precise, detailed work of all types attract the attention of these people. In contrast to Mercury in Leo, however, they can lose sight of the main issues through overconcern with details that assume undue importance.

(Julia and Derek Parker)

This is the second sign that Mercury rules, so its influence is increased. The ability to analyse and critically assess every aspect of a situation or problem is a dominant feature of this placing, which also gives much common sense and a very practical approach - yet this does not usually prevent the individual suffering to a certain extent from worry. Learning to think for oneself is important, as sometimes the organizational ability is undermined, and there is a tendency only to feel totally safe and at one's best when knowing precisely what to do and what is expected, Preoccupation with detail can sometimes mean the overall grasp of a situation is poor, so this trait should be countered. (Often the placing of Jupiter and its aspects will be helpful.) The subject can think practically and constructively, and is very able to cope with demanding intellectual work. There is a great deal of highly-charged nervous energy which must be burned off if stomach upsets, bowel problems or even migraines are to be avoided.

If the Sun sign is Leo, Mercury acts as a brake to many of the over-exuberant, enthusiastic and optimistic qualities of Leo. Its influence will add some practical, down-to-earth common sense, preventing the Leo from over-reacting when excited, and causing him or her to think twice before bragging, or perhaps buying showy clothes. Here is an excellent blend of the ability to assess situations in detail and the broader Leonine approach. The nervous energy of Mercury will complement the fiery emotional and physical energy of Leo; and, if other planets do not inhibit, a great deal should be achieved, since creative flair (Leo) will work with the careful, critical development of potential (Mercury in Virgo).

If the Sun sign is Virgo, the individual will seem very Virgoan, with a great many of the known attributes of that sign, but must guard against being over-critical or a born worrier. This critical streak will often be turned on the self, causing a lack of self-confidence and shyness. But here is an excellent mind, capable of detailed, analytical work and research of all kinds. Nervous haste can sometimes cause surprisingly careless mistakes; and the ability to relax is almost nonexistent. Yoga is often beneficial.

If the Sun sign is Libra, Libran procrastination and indecisiveness is mitigated, with the subject able to assess problems more critically, due to an active, versatile mind. Common sense is also present; and the stimulation it brings will certainly encourage the development of all kinds of Libran potential (usually considerable). Libran laziness is not usually a problem, and there is a liking for social intercourse; sometimes, too, there is a love of gossip. This is a good combination, provided Venus is not also in Virgo.

(Jan Spiller and Karen McCoy)

Static

If you indulge in the Virgo tendency to analyze and judge what is right and wrong in yourself and others, you could create endless categories in your mind. Thus, it may become difficult to communicate in an orderly or confident way. This compartmental analysis of right or wrong might appear harsh and inadvertently alienate those close to you. Concurrently, in judging others you can pave the way for heavy self-criticism if you distort perfectionism in any way.

Dynamic

When you put trust in the universal, unseen order of things, you can cease to be so defensive about the way actions reflect imperfection. Through developing self-

tolerance, you can accomplish a job with a sense of perfection but without applying the same high standards of performance to your personal life. By your detaching from perfectionism, relationships and communications with others can be transformed to a new level. You will not have to be defensive with others since you no longer need to justify your humanness to yourself.

(Lyn Birbeck)

You have an analytical, though potentially worrisome, mind.

You see life in terms of being right or wrong; and so you take great pains to ensure that you are in possession of the facts and can be trusted as a straight talker with an intelligent mind. You also see life in terms of being accurate and precise; so you look into the details of your own and Other's issues, separate the salient from the irrelevant, and deliver clearly your findings.

You tend not to see the wood for the trees, and so have to spend a lonely night in the forest. This means that, correct though you may be, Other is only going to hear you when he or she feels valued by you for more than just being able to appreciate your fine sense of logic. You tend also not to see that Other sometimes just wants to hang loose or be silly or downright emotional.

(John Townley)

You have the power to develop very elaborate and detailed fantasies. The more specific and varied each love scenario is, the richer your sexual expression becomes.

The only word of caution is that few real situations can fulfill your fantasies in every respect; and therefore you should not be too demanding of your lover. But at the same time, let your partner know exactly what you like and how you like it. Together you can derive great pleasure from acting out a shared fantasy, with every move discussed and choreographed ahead of time, as if it were a play performance.

You may enjoy using love objects and articles associated with sex. Many different garments and bodily adornments can have powerful sexual connotations and can be used to enrich both foreplay and lovemaking.

Considerable pleasure may be obtained from elaborate kissing and other forms of oral gratification, because you have a very strong desire to devour and be devoured by your lover. Indeed, when lovemaking is inconvenient because of circumstances, a prolonged and sensuous kiss can be a sufficiently deep expression that satisfies the appetite temporarily while promising more for the future.

(Robert Hand)

You have a good, thorough mind, and you pay attention to details, so you can learn about subjects that require careful thinking and learning complicated techniques. The more intricate the techniques, the better you like them. Also you are likely to be good with your hands, because you work very carefully to reach a high standard of craftsmanship. If you cannot do something well, you are not likely to do it at all. Whatever you learn, you want to put it to practical use, for you feel that everything you do should serve as a useful tool to get a job done.

You have a very critical view of the world, but you must be careful to criticize others and yourself in a helpful manner, not merely to tear them and yourself down. You will have to learn not to say anything at all at times.

You should be good at your studies, because you approach all of your work so carefully. The only possible problem is that if you don't see the usefulness of a subject that you are studying, you may not be interested in it. But stay with it anyway, because its use will become clear later in your life.

As you get older, you will become very skillful at working with ideas and information. This is a very useful ability in library work, scholarship or any field that requires organizing and classifying ideas and data. Even while you are young, you may be fond of collecting and classifying things, such as stamps, shells, coins or the like.

(Freda Edis)

Mercury rules Virgo, and a placement of the planet in this sign indicates a form of mental operation which is practical, precise and analytical. These people have meticulous minds, paying great attention to ordering their thinking, speech and writing, logically and efficiently, much as Thoth is required to do when recording the actions of the dead in the Halls of Judgement. Requiring purity in all forms of intelligence and mental expression, they may become carping and critical towards others if their standards are not met; and we know that Thoth in his early form could be a destructive god if his standards were not attained. The placement may ensure good practices of discrimination, and there is often a feeling of satisfaction about the control of thought processes. Where people feel that they are not in control, they may become overly worried and fretful. Though they can express themselves eloquently and clearly, too many anxieties can impede their work. To offset the stress caused by a sometimes exacting mind, relaxation and less nervous attention to detail are a requirement and a necessity for these people; otherwise, the essential meaning of the routines may be lost.

(Marcia Moore and Mark Douglas)

Keynote: The mind functions in a detailed, systematic manner.

Symbol: A mailman delivers letters to various offices in a large building.

In Virgo, the duality of Gemini subdivides into a multiplicity. The Mercurial Virgoan can skillfully cope with a vast assortment of details. This is an exemplary sign position for Mercury, which both rules and is exalted in Virgo. The pragmatism of the sign effectively grounds the airy diffusiveness of the planet, and directs its force into suitable channels of expression. While Mercury in its positive sign Gemini flits like a butterfly from one intriguing idea to the next, Mercury in Virgo is pinned down to a solid surface of facts which can be microscopically studied, labelled, and preserved for posterity. Such precision may be hard on the butterfly, but the cause of human knowledge is advanced.

Since Virgo rules the digestive system, Mercury therein imparts the ability to digest information. The intellect is less innovative than adaptive, endeavoring to find out where everything fits, glorifying physical fitness, and wanting people to behave fittingly. This compartmentalization of functions is fine from a utilitarian point of view, but the compulsion to be correct can inhibit the mind from reaching higher intuitive realms where differences fade and opposites blend.

If, however, the Sun is in Leo, its creative fire may irradiate the intricate patterns laid out by the logical mind with glowing colors. A Libran Sun will also interfuse the productions of this wingless Mercury with lightness, poise, and grace. When the Sun and Mercury are both in Virgo, however, the mind is inclined toward business, educational, and scientific pursuits.

The old saying 'the mind is a good servant but a poor master' is confirmed by the assignation of Mercury to the sign of service. The Virgoan Mercury is useful to the extent that it is disciplined, controlled, and kept 'in its place'. While propitious for scholarly research, it is less well-suited to the inductive process of reasoning on which the broader application of knowledge depends. Writers with Mercury in Virgo often produce books replete with voluminous data, formidably buttressed with footnotes and erudite references. Yet they are reluctant to integrate their mosaic bits of facts into the larger picture. A debilitating lack of confidence, to which most Virgoans are prone because of their strongly self-critical faculty, can lead to an unwillingness to take a strong stand on any fundamental issue. Someone else - probably a Fire-sign person - generally has to be the one to assert, 'This I believe'.

Mercury in Virgo can dissect with precision or desiccate with unending revisions. If the vital juices have been sapped by excessive ratiocination, scholarship degenerates into dull pedantry. On the positive side, the mental faculties may be so keenly honed that almost any problem can be solved - if it has a solution. If it does not, it may not be recognized to exist. This placement is ingeniously adept at devising specific techniques for accomplishing work. It indicates a person who adjusts easily to the academic world and who can profit through the continued development of his intellectual skills.

The Virgoan needs to remember that there is no cut and dried formula for living - only the fluid process that is life itself and which, while it may be measured on its surface, can never be fathomed to its primordial depths. Mercury's clever map-making mind wants to outline the contour of every continent and land-mass. However, he must also realize that there are profundities of experience beyond his ken which are no less significant in the development of man and the cosmos.

(Isabel Hickey)

Mercury is at home in this sign, and gives a strong stability to the mind. There is a practical and logical trend of thought. This is a card index type of mind, and is quick to learn, but doesn't concentrate enough to retain knowledge. Good speaker. Essentially honest. Can be critical and intolerant toward stupidity. Apt to forget that the world is ruled not by reason, but by prejudice, emotion and self-interest. Because the mind is analytical, it is very necessary to polarize this position of Mercury with its opposite, Venus. Notice position of Venus in regard to repolarizing a negative or afflicted Mercury. They have to balance each other for equilibrium of mind and feeling.

(Bernice Grebner)

If the Sun sign is Leo:

These individuals may be very interested in perfecting their craft, whatever their craft is. They are also interested in broadcasting, to anyone who will listen, about their very special techniques. Mercury in Virgo may give them a passionate interest in health foods and all things that make one a healthier person. If they have leanings toward art, they will produce art objects that have a practical use as well as artistic display. They may project a dynamic flair due to the influence of their Leo Sun, but the dramatic flair will have a very serious Virgo message. This message may be 'look at my service record', or, in a negative sense, 'why can't you improve yourself?'

If they perfect a system, they do not only want to use this system for themselves, but feel intensely flattered when others adopt what they have developed. They want a

system, a perfection, a practical purpose for existing; and the ego Sun will dramatize the facts of this system.

When in love, this Leo Sun's sense perceptions will think of service to the beloved or even a beloved cause. If there is a difficulty with this, it is that they will desire their loved ones to be perfect (as they feel they are) and may become so impassioned with this desire that they will pick apart with their words and ideas the very thing they love the most. This may also bring the tendency to keep loved ones in their place... in pigeonholes, much to the frustration of those loved.

As a critic, or as an editor of creative material, they can be at their best, for they can view an object with Leo appreciation, and the mind can pick out the flaws, resulting in a most perfect work of art or any publication. It, therefore, becomes a piece with warmth and detailed perfection.

When it comes to their children or those under their authority, they can surely teach them to get the most out of any given talent these people may have. On one hand, they can be dominating with loved ones, and at another time they may express complete flexibility, adjusting to their ideas. They must learn one thing: that their way is not the only way of solving a problem, for they may be so tuned into their own narrow detailed thinking at times that they cannot see the forest for the trees.

If the Mercury Virgo gets too much in power, it stifles the Leo Fire's go-ahead and foresightedness. Since the Mercury is Earth and the Sun is Fire, the Earth may put out the enthusiasm and creativity of the ego. The mind may wait too long for just the perfect plan where destiny is concerned, and may not accomplish as much or get out of its ruts. However, if they use their ability at practical reality in a positive way, they can put the Leo's enthusiastic creativities into concrete form. Leo is known for egocentricity at times, but with a Mercury in Virgo, there can be just the right amount of humility to keep a fine balance to their natures. It is a matter of directing and balancing.

Famous people with this configuration surely do represent a cross-section of talent.

If the Sun sign is Virgo:

This is solid Earth. There can be very little deviation here. Virgo represents the ability to utilize information. Here is a mind and an ego that is always seeking a workable solution to problems in life and a better way of doing things. This can be the scientist, the chemist, the one who invents new machinery, and those who can put things together with the fewest possible errors. If there is a difficulty with this combination, it is taking too much time with trying to achieve perfection, thereby negating the chance to accomplish more in volume. There is a phrase that interprets this simply and concisely, 'quality, not quantity'.

Their biggest talent but also their greatest difficulty lies in the tendency to pigeonhole everything including relationships. They create so many, many parts, so many sections, that all are separated; thus, it becomes very difficult, if not impossible, for them to see the total picture. If a project has one tiny, little flaw, they feel like throwing the whole thing out. They simply cannot stand the tiniest little speck of error or flaw.

This is an excellent position for anyone who works at research, or in a scientific laboratory where microscopes and the like are used. The word 'microscope' and Virgo seem to be synonymous. Unless other aspects and conditions in the chart show otherwise, this can inhibit them from being intuitive, having blind faith, etc.. What

they cannot see is not real to them. Even when it comes to research, they can dissect all the parts, but it is very difficult for them to put all the parts together again. It takes Pisces and Sagittarius for that. If they make any reports of their work or research, they do not get down to the bottom line, but have the tendency to get boring to faster, more impulsive, farsighted people. If these people are to get the best out of any given facet of their lives, they must learn that any plan, any formula can be changed, and that life at times needs to be faced with a little gambling. When Virgo's Sun and Mercury cannot do this, they get stuck in a rut and their health suffers.

On the positive side of this combination, when they get into the study of health, healing, vitamins, minerals, health foods, they can become excellent authorities. Their ability to zero in on a given health problem for themselves and others can result in a solution that can be corrected; hence the therapist. Another of their talents that can be perfected is their fantastic talent with computers. Theirs is the mind and ego that has no limit with the computer world. Despite whatever else you may have read, it is Virgo who will rule the up-and-coming computer world because of their ability to program, to be proficient to the tiniest part of computing, whether in building computers, designing them or programming them.

Every Mercury / Sun combination has its negatives and positives. This combination especially has to watch the negatives and eliminate them, for the positive directions can become so fantastic that these people can fulfill their life on earth as authorities in whatever talent drives them. They can leave many constructive projects behind them as a memorial to their life's work. Solid Earth. You will certainly see the results, whatever they turn out to be.

Famous people with this combination include notable actors and actresses.

If the Sun sign is Libra:

The Sun is Air, it is light, it is graceful, it has poise. Mercury is systematic, detailed, careful. This combination brings balance to an otherwise very critical mind. The Libra influence will indicate those who are capable of seeing possibilities even in those things they tend to criticize. In many ways it makes for accurate judgement when it is at its best. However, in many other ways it causes endless delays. Mercury in Virgo has the tendency to make many changes in its mercurial work, so that coupled with the Libra tendency to not make up its mind easily and the lack in taking a single track with an issue, this can cause delays and 'in a rut' experiences.

Their attitudes and their ability to reason things out in a practical and realistic way can put somewhat of a damper on romantic relationships. They may appear to be more loving than may be the case. Their conscious minds in this instance have much control over the Libra Sun's tendencies. Having a Libra Sun gives a destiny to relate to others and to consider the needs of others, but this Virgo Mercury will only go so far in this direction. Virgo is not the most unselfish position in the zodiac. It makes for a more narrow view, and lacks the ability to be tolerant and compassionate with others. The mind sees things in pigeonholes and has a tendency to dissect, so that when the chips are down, the communication with a loved one may come into criticizing much to the hurt of the person with whom they are trying to relate in a loving fashion. When everything is going all right, charm can be their middle name, but when things are not going right, fussy, detailed, narrow, critical communication takes place.

The combination of the Sun and Moon represents ego with emotions and feelings, but when the Sun is in combination with Mercury, it represents the influence our

conscious mental attitude has. So that in the final accounting our conscious awareness can control everything. Libra is balanced Air, a consideration that has to weigh two sides against the middle, so to speak. Now, when an Earth Mercury enters the picture, we have to put this Sun in Libra's purposes through a practical, perfectionist earthy Mercury door. Whatever balance, whatever diplomacy, whatever refined artistic talent Libra espouses will have to be tinged with Virgo's thinking. Whenever a Sun has a different sign from Mercury, there is going to be some dilution of the Sun sign's purpose. It is like having black coffee and suddenly a bit of cream and sugar is put into the coffee. It is still coffee, but no longer black coffee, and it begins to have a different taste, a different effect upon our body.

Natal Mercury in Libra

(Grant Lewi)

Sense impressions reach you through a strict moral and aesthetic censor. You see, hear, taste, smell and feel with the proprieties of art and society in mind, and have few sensory reactions that do not have to submit to this type of judgement. A color is not just red to you; it is a warm red, or a cold red, or a beautiful or ugly red. Further, in addition to the artistic standard, you apply the standard of good taste; and what you see or hear will revolt you if it doesn't conform with your idea of what is 'out of the top drawer'. You are a kind of sensation snob, and the simple meaning of sense experience is likely to be lost on you if it in any way offends the standards of nicety you set up for yourself. Needless to say, you are very sensitive to odors and all kinds of physical surroundings. Your house must be spick-and-span (so that your sight will not be offended); noises if any must be subdued and quiet (not to affront your ears); the odors of cookery must not penetrate to the living room (for your nose's sake); what you eat must be seasoned just so (or your tongue and maybe your stomach by attraction will revolt); and last, but not least, your spouse must be well-groomed and presentable, so that your reaction will be pleasant when you touch. All these niceties can make you fussy, but, if turned to their best use, make you gentle, considerate of others, and gifted in one or more of the arts where your great sensitivity is translated to creations that reflect it in beauty.

(Sydney Omarr)

Mercury in Libra is sensitive, artistic, socially aware, politically mature, attracted to the arts, and able to transform the commonplace into the beautiful. The native is creative and attracts to him those engaged in creative activities. He thinks along lines of balance, justice, and a blending of many elements into a whole.

His mental pursuits are broad - he sees potentials better than actual details. He is sometimes accused of being absentminded. But, it is very likely, the truth of the matter is that he sees or remembers only what is necessary for him to remember, rather than allowing his mind to become cluttered with details.

He wants things in order, but is not necessarily an orderly individual. He knows how to appeal to the public in general but is often puzzled when dealing with individuals. He possesses good taste and favors quality over quantity - he does not appear attracted to bargains.

(Skye Alexander)

You have the rare ability to see both sides of any issue and to remain detached, impartial and objective. You weigh the strengths and weaknesses in a matter and make judgements based on the facts without letting your feelings get in the way. This

tends to make you more fair and equitable than most people; and you could be a good judge, mediator, lawyer, negotiator or umpire. Because you can see the pluses and minuses of everything, however, you have trouble making decisions or sticking with the ones you finally do make. Too often, you let others make up your mind for you or you go along with the crowd because it's easier.

This dispassionate and orderly way of thinking enables you to be an expert strategist. You also have a knack for understanding what your opponent is thinking. As a result, you could be a successful general, chess master or sports team manager. Or, you could use your logic, planning skills and good judgement in almost any segment of the business world. You are able to evaluate others' talents without feeling threatened by people who are more gifted than you are; and you are especially good at organizing individuals so that they work together as a team.

Always tactful, well-mannered and diplomatic in your speech, you rarely lose your temper and always try to avoid an argument. You may debate issues cleverly, even forcefully, but you never become emotionally involved. Always cool and rational, you can appear bloodless and unfeeling at times. It is this lack of personal involvement, this separation between the heart and the head, that allows lawyers to defend heinous criminals and generals to send men into battle knowing they'll be slaughtered.

Libra is concerned with balance and harmony, and loves beauty in all its forms. With Mercury in this sign, you might express your aesthetic appreciation as an artist or a patron of the arts.

Libra also is the sign of one-to-one partnerships; thus you tend to think and talk a great deal about relationships, especially those which involve love and romance. You are inclined to idealize romantic attachments and usually think the best of your partner(s). If you are a writer, you may write about love and relationships; if you are a therapist, you may do marriage counselling. Often, your thoughts are centred on your partner; and you are strongly influenced by him / her and his / her opinions. Since you rarely have firm convictions of your own, you may simply parrot your loved one's ideas or agree in order to avoid arguments.

Your beliefs and attitudes are usually quite traditional and conservative; and you tend to accept the party line rather than diverging in any unique, individual way. This is partially because you don't want to cause friction or seem disagreeable, but also because you are easily convinced by those who have strong opinions and express them forcefully. At best you are open-minded; at worst vacillating and weak-willed.

If Uranus or Mars aspects your Mercury, you will be more outspoken, forward-thinking and individualistic. If Neptune aspects Mercury in your chart, you'll be less orderly and rational in your thinking.

(Frances Sakoian and Louis Acker)

Mercury in the sign Libra indicates a mind that is primarily concerned with human relations and psychology. The natives have an intense curiosity about the thinking and behavior patterns of others; they gravitate, therefore, to fields such as psychology, astrology, public relations, sociology, and law. Good communication and happiness in relationships are essential to them. They prefer to work in mental partnership with others; and they are usually easy to communicate with because of their interest in what others think. Their strong sense of justice generally makes them honest in their communication. The Venus rulership of Libra seeks harmony, and Saturn's exaltation in Libra seeks justice, making the Mercury Libra honest and

balanced in all mental dealings. These people like to consider all sides of an issue before making a decision; but if this desire is used in the wrong way, it can lead to indecisiveness, and the opportunity to act is lost. When decisions are reached, however, they are generally just and well-considered. If other factors in the horoscope are favorable, this Mercury position is good for the legal professions, counselling, arbitration, and other public relations work such as sales and negotiating. But unless there are some planets in fixed signs or houses, there can be impatience in these matters.

People with this Mercury position seek association with those who possess refined minds, good manners, and honest reputations. Uncouth manners and unfair motivations are distasteful and are avoided whenever possible. These people are highly sensitive to odors, personal appearance, and mannerisms of others. They regard inappropriate dress and coarse speech as social affronts. Gentle and considerate in communication, they can be stern where principles are involved. They make the mistake of expecting from others the same degree of mental discipline that they require of themselves.

Because of Saturn's exaltation in Libra, the mind can be stern and hardworking. In highly-developed types, this quality leads to profundity; but superficial people with this Mercury position may appear to lack the firmness of their convictions because they tend to agree with their companions in order to gain popularity and acceptance.

(Julia and Derek Parker)

The thinking processes tend to be slowed down here; and although there is always increased sympathy, understanding and a desire to communicate with friends and loved ones, procrastination and indecisiveness are likely. The powers of concentration are not usually very good (positive aspects between the Sun, Moon and Saturn will help); and sometimes a lackadaisical attitude is taken towards important issues. The speech can be slow and drawling, with plenty of time taken when answering questions or responding in conversation. The Libran need to keep the peace is also present, making the subject avoid discussing anything remotely controversial. Even so, there is plenty of charm and a delightful turn of phrase. Sometimes the attitude is 'Que sera sera', with the subject spurred into action by loved ones. Studying does not come easily or naturally; and a desire to achieve results without much effort is likely.

If the Sun sign is Virgo, hastiness, a sense of urgency, and to a certain extent tension, are all eased; and the ability to unwind is also present. The attitude to life and its problems will be quite calm, with less Virgoan worry, although sometimes the powerful critical acumen of Virgo will cause undue carping or even nagging at loved ones. But there will be a sense of fairness, and partners should learn to appeal to it. Indecisiveness must be recognized and countered.

If the Sun sign is Libra, the Libran will be more indecisive and often mentally lazy - sometimes giving the erroneous impression of a lack of intelligence. If there is a lack of self-confidence, laziness will be feigned as a cover-up. The subject should weigh up every aspect of a situation before reaching conclusions. Gentle encouragement from parents to children with this combination, making quite sure they realize they have made progress, is important if intellectual potential is to be developed; nagging will have an adverse effect. Procrastination will be a problem - especially for loved ones.

If the Sun sign is Scorpio, some of the harsh, deeply incisive edge is taken off the Scorpio Sun sign traits, and there is the ability to listen sympathetically. There is greater flexibility of thought, so stubbornness is less of a problem. Popular and charming, the subject communicates well. The tendency to brood, especially over

personal problems, is not as apparent, since he or she will find it easier to talk to friends and loved ones. The mind works well but in a relaxed way.

Static

When you indulge in fears of not saying the right thing and look to others for a reflection of immediate acceptance, communications can stop. By your withholding honest interchange for fear of rejection, your mind may bog down in a swamp of considerations that brings indecision. If you withhold disclosing what is actually on your mind, you may lose perspective, integrity, and perceptual balance.

Dynamic

By focusing on your point of view and sharing your independent opinion, you can discover the spontaneous awareness of your impact when communicating with others. Concentrating on what needs to be said rather than on what you think other people want to hear can contribute the justice, truth and balance required by the situation. You then may discover that you have a natural talent for diplomacy and communication that spontaneously restores harmony without compromising any sense of personal integrity.

(Lyn Birbeck)

You have a fair, though potentially superficial, mind.

You see life in terms of creating harmony and avoiding conflict; and so you are very skilful and diplomatic with Other, and aware of his / her position. Such awareness and flexibility can solve or even pre-empt relationship problems quite easily and efficiently. You also see life in terms of social and moral justice, which enables you to treat Other fairly.

You tend not to see that harmony is often created through conflict and confrontation. Consequently, you talk around the point, which can infuriate Other - and then you start all over again! You also tend not to see that maps are not the same as places themselves - meaning that you relate from a theoretical base, not an emotionally real one.

(John Townley)

With your lively imagination, you prefer a love affair that is constantly in motion. You don't want your role in a relationship to be static; you like to continually change your position in relation to your partner, rather as if in a game. This can be a fine way to enliven a relationship, but do not let it devolve into a competition or a series of rounds of one-upmanship, which can happen if your partner takes the game too seriously.

You envision love as an intrinsically beautiful structure that requires continual upkeep, both physical and emotional, to keep it as close as possible to perfection. You enjoy physical lovemaking, but only if you are personally involved with your partner. A one-night stand does not allow that, and is likely to be a disappointment.

Because of your appreciation of the art and technique of love, you may keep careful mental notes on your lovers, comparing them to each other in various ways. This helps you understand the variety of factors that make up an enjoyable relationship.

Probably no partnership can live up to all of your ideal criteria; but don't let that get

you down. Much of your pleasure in an affair comes from constant change and improvement, always reaching new levels of beauty and enjoyment.

(Robert Hand)

You make up your mind very carefully, for you don't like to jump to conclusions. You prefer to spend as much time as possible looking at each choice and weighing every point of view. This can be very useful, but sometimes you take so long that other people get impatient. Every choice looks so good that you find it difficult to choose. Whenever two points of view conflict, you prefer to compromise and combine the two, rather than reject one of them. You are moderate in everything you do, and won't every go to extremes.

You like ideas and objects to be neat and elegant. You have good taste and a sense of balance. Often this position means that you are fond of music and art, and perhaps talented in one of those areas. When you talk to people, you avoid harsh and ugly words, and you try to soothe over anyone's ruffled feelings with pleasing phrases. You are a born diplomat, but there are times when you should speak out clearly and forcefully. Then you must not hang back from using strong words just for fear of making someone angry. Sometimes in relationships with others you have to get down to unpleasant emotions. But on the positive side, you are very good at making compromises, either for yourself or for others.

(Freda Edis)

Mercury in Libra denotes a mental orientation which seeks intellectual harmony and balance with others. This placement can lead to much curiosity about the workings of the human mind and relationships; people with Mercury in Libra often show a great interest in what others think. They can be too concerned about seeing the relevance of all arguments and issues; this characteristic may lead to an inability to be decisive, particularly in crises. They may be good communicators with a wish to appear upright and just in all forms of mental expression. Sometimes, though, their wish to please others, their concern with what others think of them, can lead to prevarication in speech and thought, if not outright dishonesty. Occasionally defensive of their carefully thought-out honesty, they can be unbending if they think their principles are being challenged, though they often have trouble making up their minds about relationships. This tendency is reminiscent of Persephone's part in the judgement processes of the underworld, and of her initial reaction to Hades. People with this placement may need to cultivate the ability to act humanely and mercifully when circumstances require it.

(Marcia Moore and Mark Douglas)

Keynote: Thoughts are expressed clearly and impartially.

Symbol: An art museum curator discusses the merits of his acquisitions.

Mercury in Libra gives a flair for knowing what to say, the savoir faire to say it gracefully, and an easygoing air of assurance that one's words will be well-received. This individual will attend to the fine points of a literary or artistic production because he can see how each detail enhances the whole picture. He thinks in terms of balancing related groups of elements so that each one complements the rest. His mind is less concerned with particulars than with the overall patterns which endow individual forms with value and significance.

Mercury, an Air planet, blends agreeably with airy Libra. The charm bestowed by Libra's ruler, Venus, lends a soft glow to Mercury's somewhat stark intellectuality,

while the exalted Saturn adds the weight of authority. As a result, head and heart cooperated in assessing the worth of things. A person with Mercury in Libra would be likely to agree with the poet Keats, who wrote: 'Beauty is truth, truth is beauty - that is all ye know on earth and all ye need to know'.

If the Sun is in Virgo, the basic outlook on life will be more practical. Then the finesse of Mercury in Libra is suited to dress depressing realities in an eye-catching garb. People with this combination may be dedicated to the service of the poor and needy, but able to present their message to the world with tact and refinement.

The Sun and Mercury conjoined in Libra encourage artistic accomplishment. A contemplative intellect modified by balanced judgement gives polished expression to abstract ideas. Music, writing, oratory, and the arts which rely upon a mastery of the traditional laws of form are usually preferred to the more unstructured modes of self-expression.

When the Sun has gone ahead of Mercury into the relentlessly probing sign of Scorpio, there may be contending stresses in the character which the judicial Libran Mercury will endeavor to resolve. The mind is inclined toward business and psychology.

The main problem encountered by the Mercurial-Libran is indecisiveness. He has a proclivity to depend upon accredited opinions and then to be torn between disputing factions, each one claiming to have an option on the truth. Vacillation may stem from the desire to consider all possible alternatives impartially as his divided mind is torn between the conflicting testimonies of so-called authorities. He prefers detached observation to irrevocable action; but if he delays too long, he may lose the battle while still trying to settle on a strategy.

This is a fortuitous placement for professions which require the ability to function cooperatively. It can make a polished and persuasive speaker with considerable organizational ability but not much liking for physical work. Normally, this individual would rather advise others on the relative merits of their handicrafts, their opinions, and their pleasures, than outperform, express more cogent opinions, or enjoy more aesthetic pleasures than those discussed. His mind is facial and flexible, but the manner in which he employs it depends largely on the people with whom he chooses to associate.

(Isabel Hickey)

This is a masculine, positive type of mind, so it is better in a man's chart than in a female chart. In a female chart, it shows an over-masculinity that needs the building-in of a more feminine attitude. It can be a very positive type of mind and yet at the same time inwardly indecisive and vacillating. It gives judgement; and there is sensitivity and pliancy on the surface. Tendency to fussiness because aesthetic sense is highly developed. A strong perfectionism which isn't too comfortable to live with. This position does help to stabilize Mercury, for Saturn is exalted in this sign. Do not be surprised to see a strong Saturnian trend in those who have planets in Libra. Remember: Saturn is exalted in Libra.

Natal Mercury in Scorpio

(Grant Lewi)

You see, hear and experience with the legalistic attitude of a judge. Anything that stands before the bar of your senses isn't likely to get off easily, for you interpret

critically what passes before your eyes, and not always kindly. As a result, when you give expression to your judgement, you may earn the reputation for having a sharp tongue. Your powers of observation are acute; you have the eye of an eagle, and a kind of permanent awareness of what is going on around you makes it impossible for anyone to put anything over on you. You have eyes in the back of your head; and a sixth sense tells you things that the other five miss. Criticism is part of your process of taking in the world; and you never take in much of it without passing judgement in the process. You observe accurately but not always charitably; the nerve channels through which impressions reach the brain are apparently filled with acid, which eats away the superficialities that impress others, and leaves only the stark realities to be recorded on your cerebellum. You are therefore a first-class critic and debunker, seeing through phoniness, sham and pretension and, since your eyes and ears rarely deceive you, pretty generally getting to the truth of what goes on.

(Sydney Omarr)

In Scorpio, Mercury indicates one who is sensuous, able to perceive hidden meanings, shrewd and curious; he tends to be suspicious, but his suspicions usually have foundation in fact. He is capable of understanding high finance; fascinated with the stock market, he draws charts in an effort to understand various trends. This native knows how to appeal to the opposite sex - and would gain much by selling specific items such as clothing to either sex. He sees through false claims and people who make them.

The astrologer must teach the native to overcome his fear that greater security is constantly required. Often, no matter how good his financial position might be, he worries, and can make himself miserable over little things while neglecting important projects.

(Skye Alexander)

You are not satisfied with superficial understandings, and seek to know the ultimate truths of existence. What goes on behind the scenes, what makes something work, what hidden forces are responsible for exterior conditions - these are the things you want to know. You enjoy probing beneath the surface to uncover the secrets within, whether those secrets are in the human mind, the body, business, government, the Earth or the Universe. As a result, you might be interested in psychology, science, medicine, espionage, geology or the occult.

You have an insightful and penetrating mind, and are able to focus your attention deeply, for long periods of time. Infinitely curious, you leave no stone unturned and don't give up until you've found answers to your questions. You ferret out information, analyze it until you understand its essence, then use it for your own purposes. Thus, you could be good at almost any type of research. Your love of intrigue may also manifest as a passion for mystery stories and detective novels.

Often your ideas run counter to the conventions and beliefs of your time. This is because you refuse to accept something until you've proved it for yourself. And, as you examine traditional beliefs, you frequently discover flaws or shortcomings, which leads you to formulate your own theories. Such theories may be revolutionary and have a transformative effect on those they touch.

In order to stand up against strong opposition, one must be firm and determined in one's convictions. Certainly this is true of you. Once you've decided upon something, nothing can make you give it up. You can be incredibly stubborn and emotionally attached to your ideas. And because you've come to your understandings through

unique, personal and often unorthodox ways, no-one can change your mind with a logical argument. Highly intuitive, you often 'know' you're right, even if you can't back up your beliefs with facts.

You express your viewpoints vehemently and convincingly, and enjoy a good argument with a worthy opponent. There is a certain amount of charisma in your verbal delivery; and when you speak you project power, authority and intelligence. You intuitively know what others want to hear, and are clever at manipulating their emotions as well as the information, so that you can hold an audience in the palm of your hand and win them over to your way of thinking.

You also tend to be direct, blunt, even bitingly sarcastic in your speech. You get straight to the point and don't mince words - and if you step on some toes or offend some sensibilities in the process, so be it. But you also exhibit keen insight and knowledge, especially regarding the nature of the human condition. You truly understand the inner workings of the psyche and the dark side of life, and are fascinated with it. Not only do you have unusual powers of observation, but also you are very intuitive, even psychic, and can see to the core of people and situations. Not much gets by you, and you are not easily fooled. This intimate knowledge of the hidden recesses of the human mind makes you sceptical, suspicious and pessimistic; you often expect the worst from people.

Venus and / or Jupiter aspects to your Mercury will make you more tactful, optimistic, and willing to engage in social amenities.

(Frances Sakoian and Louis Acker)

Mercury in the sign Scorpio gives an intuitive mind capable of profound insights. The natives' perceptiveness can lead to critical examination of human motivations; they see things accurately, but not necessarily charitably. They may use sharp language, since they refuse to mince words in order to spare the feelings of others. They prefer to say exactly what they feel, or else remain silent. They carry on many plans and endeavors in secret, and communicate only where communication serves a definite purpose in terms of what they are trying to accomplish. However, since they can be swayed themselves by strong emotional factors, they are more objective when not personally involved.

These people have determined minds and great resourcefulness, which enables them to surmount obstacles that many would find impossible to deal with. If Mercury is afflicted in Scorpio, there can be scheming, plotting, and ulterior motives.

People with Mercury in this sign make good detectives, investigators, and researchers. In highly developed types, there is scientific ability arising from their curiosity about the inner workings of the energy responsible for objective manifestation. This leads to insight into the fundamental processes of change.

If Mercury is afflicted in this sign, the mind can be preoccupied with sex. There also can be a mistrust of others.

(Julia and Derek Parker)

Scorpic intuition and intensity combine with Mercurial logic and a rational approach. Determination is a strong point, and the individual will have a sleuth-like mind, leaving no stone unturned to discover the truth of a situation and root out every aspect of it. Here is someone who perhaps could become a psychotherapist, psychiatrist, or detective. While the placing usually works well, there can be

obsessional tendencies, especially if Mercury makes a negative aspect to Pluto. Mercury is not very communicative in Scorpio because the necessary outgoing qualities are not sympathetic to that sign. The subject will be more inward-looking, going in for a great deal of self-analysis, perhaps tending to hug psychological problems, and finding it very hard to open up. This must be countered, especially during stressful periods. There is much intellectual and imaginative potential, and sometimes a fascination with the occult, crime and mystery.

If the Sun sign is Libra, Mercury in Scorpio adds considerable determination and purpose; Libran indecisiveness will not be such a problem. The individual may seem indecisive, but will intuitively know what line of action to take, even if he or she procrastinates over actually making a move! Natural Neptune charm will be expressed, but there can be a minor or major tendency to plot and scheme. However, if determination and a sense of purpose can be directed positively towards the attainment of objectives and a more rewarding lifestyle, this is a good combination.

If the Sun sign is Scorpio, the thinking processes of Mercury will be as powerfully intense and intuitive as they can be, with formidable determination and sense of purpose. The intellectual powers are usually excellent, but the individual could become obsessive - perhaps over attaining an objective or a compelling interest. There will be a fascination with mysteries, which will be relentlessly pursued and researched. It is important for there to be a compelling objective of this kind; otherwise, these powerful qualities can go sour and turn into Scorpio jealousy or resentment.

If the Sun sign is Sagittarius, this Mercury placement acts as a good counter to the Sagittarian dislike of detail. It reduces the hastiness of Sagittarius and endows natural enthusiasm with a little caution. Any tendency to over-optimism is also controlled, and Mercury in this position generally adds depth to someone who is basically more concerned with the overall breadth of problems and situations. Sagittarius is a fiery, emotional sign; and Mercury's placing gives some dampening emotion to the intellect, making for an individual who is a force to be reckoned with and has a sense of humor.

(Isabel Hickey)

Quick and powerful, sharper than a two-edged sword. Intensely secretive. Hate to commit themselves to any positive statement, so don't try to pin them down. Extremely perceptive, and know the other person's weakness so well they know where to strike. Fierce acuteness of mind. Farsighted and clear-sighted, but are often overcritical. 'I' of the ego and sixth sense strongly developed. Must watch tendency to pass judgement. Can be the judge, the jury and God help you! Excellent in secret service or in police work. Have to regenerate the mind stuff where the creative functions are concerned. Too much emphasis on sex if the total chart does not show involvement.

(Jan Spiller and Karen McCoy)

Static

When you indulge in Scorpio fears of losing power over others by exposing your motives and desires, your communication can become defensive, secretive, and vindictive. Constant inner turmoil may result if you withhold expressing your thoughts, fearing that hidden emotions will be exposed and you might become vulnerable. As a consequence, either anger, impatience and intimidation can be

brought forth, or all communication may be withheld, thus alienating other and isolating yourself.

Dynamic

When you focus on manifesting what is valuable to you, your keen perception can penetrate and reveal to others the deeper meaning of their communication. You are able to unveil those powerful secrets that can transform all concerned. By your sharing the Scorpio incisive ability to perceive the heart behind the words, hidden motivations are exposed within their communications. This awareness can make a positive contribution to others and actually increase your insight and sense of self-possession.

(Lyn Birbeck)

You have a penetrating, though potentially paranoid, mind.

You see life in terms of underlying emotional truths and realities rather than merely how things appear on the surface. And so you are able to penetrate Other's real or hidden motivations and consequently clarify them and resolve problems issuing from them. You also champion confidentiality, which inspires Other with trust and respect for your insights.

You tend not to see that Other is more straightforward and not so convoluted in his / her thinking. Consequently, you make problems with Other which only exist in your suspicious, anguished and obsessed mind. You also tend not to see that making secrets of things creates the very difficulties they were supposed to avoid.

(John Townley)

You are probably very intrigued with the physical basis of sexual expression - the relationships between the different parts of the body in lovemaking; the advantages and disadvantages of various sizes and shapes in any sexual situation. There is much artistry in this, which you should develop. This area is often ignored but it can be a great help in getting the most out of sex.

The dark and powerful aspects of sexuality have great appeal for you, and you really enjoy sex most when it is rather secret and mysterious. Too much bright light on the workings of a relationship tends to take away the excitement, making it too mundane. Thus, a clandestine affair has a special appeal for you, and you may act secretive about an affair even if there is no reason to be so, except for the excitement it provides.

Don't let dated social taboos prevent you from trying every kind of physical sexual expression that appeals to you, even if it's labelled perverse or bizarre by the sexually fearful. Repressing such desires will only frustrate you; and expressing them with a willing partner will greatly enhance your sexual experience and understanding.

But you should avoid using sex or sexual attraction as a tool to gain power or influence over others. Sexuality can flourish only when it is free of other motivations.

(Robert Hand)

You like to get to the bottom of every problem, and are fascinated by mysteries and unanswered questions. To you, searching for answers is almost more interesting than

the answers themselves. A born investigator, you may be interested in solving crimes and in detective work. Or you might want to study the secrets of nature through science. You are interested in what goes on in people's minds. You like to find out about everyone's secrets, but you can keep a secret if you want to.

When you are emotionally upset, your thinking gets confused by your feelings, so try not to make decisions at those times. When you're angry, you can speak very forcefully, but if you are not careful, your words may hurt someone's feelings. At least you are forthright and say what you mean.

Your sense of humor is rather sharp. When you see someone pretending to be more than he or she is, you are likely to make sarcastic and biting remarks. You may only say them quietly, but others will know what you mean.

You must learn to be more open with people. Something about you may make others uneasy, giving them a feeling that you have some deep, dark secret, which makes them fearful. You enjoy giving this impression, but it does hurt your relations with others. To prevent this, you should try to build up a reputation for honesty with adults and friends.

(Freda Edis)

The placement of Mercury in Scorpio can give incisive thinking and a penetrating mind capable of deep insights into the motives which underlie human behaviour. Often mistrustful of their own and others' feelings, people with this combination can, if aroused or hurt, inflict severe wounds on others with their sharp and sarcastic tongues. Much of their thinking is conducted in secret, and, like Hades, they have the mental resourcefulness to lay careful plans before they act. They perhaps need to be aware of a tendency to scheme and plot destructively when their ideas and thoughts, to which they are emotionally and often subjectively attached, are challenged. Often acutely perceptive and thoughtful in a silent way of others' unexpressed needs, these people can be profoundly charitable as long as they are not emotionally threatened themselves. Gentleness and consideration are two characteristics they may need to acquire to offset the negative inclinations of the placement.

(Marcia Moore and Mark Douglas)

Keynote: The mind penetrates to the essence of matters.

Symbol: A cryptographer endeavors to crack a code.

Mercury in Scorpio gives a talent for research and the ability to solve mysteries. This person may be shrewdly perceptive, or he may merely be critical and suspicious, but in any event it is best to deal with him straightforwardly. Like all true Scorpions, he can spot a phony immediately; and while he may not be able to give an adequate explanation for his feat of detection, he is usually right. Often all he can say is that he 'just knows'. His reasoning mind is connected with his combative instincts in such a way that he relishes the challenge of solving puzzles and discovering secrets. Frequently, the Mercury-Scorpio individual is justified in his skepticism. His X-ray intellect easily penetrates smooth surfaces of expressed or implied promises to reveal the hidden motives, personal inadequacies, and unconscious prevarications which lurk below. Anyone obliged to do business with this type of person should bear in mind that flattery will be of no use whatsoever, but that simple honesty will suffice. Otherwise, they may find themselves the target of 'the sharpest tongue in the zodiac'.

People with Mercury in Scorpio are invaluable in financial concerns where they keep an eagle eye on accounting procedures. In insurance companies, they have an

uncanny faculty for unmasking false claims and fraudulent tactics. In show business, they can quickly discern genuine talent. They make dogged investigators in any field, and do not flinch from facing facts or exposing corrupt practices. They also have the manual dexterity to handle machinery and keep it running efficiently.

If the Sun is in Libra with Mercury in Scorpio, the temperament is basically moderate and conciliatory, but with a certain disputatious streak or contrariness. Individuals with this combination have been able to make diplomatic use of their gifts of satire and repartee. The Libran Sun may give so much suavity that people fail to realize how acute the intellect really is.

If the Sun and Mercury are both in Scorpio, the mind is imbued with courage and fortitude.

If the Sun is in Sagittarius and Mercury is in Scorpio, a visionary disposition may turn the mind to philosophical pursuits. Mercury then serves as a restraining influence which prunes away the excesses of the Sagittarian tendency toward verbosity.

The unevolved Mercurial Scorpion can be the most vindictive of enemies.

Higher types of Mercurial Scorpions have a profound interest in the mysteries of life, and can express obscure ideas succinctly. They also know when to remain silent. Part of the fascination they exert is due to their taciturnity, which conveys the feeling that they know more than they care to divulge, and which makes them the epitome of the proverb 'Still waters run deep'.

(Bernice Grebner)

If the Sun sign is Libra:

Mercury in Scorpio gives an x-ray intellect. The Sun in Libra manner is diplomatic and has a certain amount of social charm. These people can appear to be very suave, but underneath this Libra manner is a mind that is as sharp as a razor. When all is said and done, they can't be easily taken in. This is the type of person who should be in a business where they unmask fraud. In any given situation with others, they come on with charm and sometimes flattery (which they themselves can't stand when others play it on them), but behind their charm is an unmasking talent for sensing the truth in another's statements.

This combination is Air and Water. This means they tune in on both the intellectual and the emotional wave lengths. With Mercury in this Water sign of Scorpio, it gives depth to the mind and the ability to understand deep feelings about things. The Scorpio mind can be fixed, determined, stubborn and very demanding. It will not let go of an idea or an emotion until the natives themselves are satisfied. However, the Libra ego wants to harmonize, wants to adjust to others; but the thinking process will not always go along with the Libra instinct to adjust to others.

They can express very controversial ideas, rebellious tendencies with tact and diplomacy, so that others will not know what hit them. Their Scorpio minds are stubborn, penetrating, and their ego instinct is harmonious. These qualities can either work against them or make them the greatest detectives, the greatest social reformers of the whole zodiac.

There is not end of belief in the persons they are in love with; but once hurt by a loved one, they can become very vindictive. It is not as outwardly vindictive as Sun Scorpio, Mercury Scorpio, but is even more destructive when they want to be

because others are pulled off-guard so as to give these natives considerable headway.

When it comes to Scorpio Mercury's thinking, nothing is impossible, and this becomes the root matter of all things in their lives. They may have exterior charm, and others may think they have convinced them or won, but do not expect them to ever forget or to ever fully give up, because they won't. There is a constant undercurrent with this combination. Libra charm, Libra diplomacy, Libra harmony; but underneath those, their thoughts are very fixed, determined, and never accepting defeat. These natives will win in the end: watch and see. Water is sometimes hard on Air, for it makes the Air heavy and immovable. However, Air in this case can cause so much commotion that it can create heavy emotional storms within their communication with others.

If the Sun sign is Scorpio:

These people are very courageous. When we speak of Scorpio, we are speaking of a force that knows no defeat, a force that does not know what the word 'impossible' means. These people always figure out a way to get whatever it is they want. The mind is deep and penetrating, and can always figure out a way to get out of any difficulty. With this combination, the door is wide open for the Scorpio purpose in life. This influence gives psychological talent, as a natural born psychologist. It gives an easy, natural concept with the healing arts. The other side of this picture represents a consciousness and an ego that is all or nothing, saint or devil. These people will try anything or die in the attempt. Unless other influences in the chart dilute, this gives those possessing it heroic tendencies, capable of the most unusual and out-of-the-ordinary feats.

This is double Water, but Water that has power, Water that has pressure and strength. This represents a fixed sign, so there is no giving up on anything. It causes them to take something to the limit of its potential. It forces; it sometimes pressures, and either will be so dedicated with a purpose, or an idea, that will make a big dent in their world, leading to success, or will practically destroy itself in the attempt. In many ways, this says 'succeed or die'. You will never fool these people, for they can immediately see the very bottom of a situation or problem. They may not be very talkative, so where they are concerned you must learn to read gestures, facial expressions, and mannerisms. Theirs is a nature best suited for some type of research, whether in healing research, occult research, detective work, or any of the human mysteries of our existence.

These natives have a way of popping back to full life when you think they are the most defeated. Their minds will always find one spark that can cause them to rejuvenate their thinking and build anew, creating a continuous productive effort. It will be comparatively easy for them to get rid of anything in their lives that is not productive. However, this same talent can cause a very destructive streak, annihilating all in its path depending upon other aspects to this same Sun / Mercury in Scorpio. There can be a devious side to their natures, even with the best of them. It is just a question of degree, as to how much of a devious nature they possess. Even when it looks like they have forgotten, they have not forgotten, for at a later time the subject or project will come up again in a new form, but still the same old subject underneath. The will with this influence is to succeed above and beyond average, despite the form they have to use to succeed. They should get into some very productive field from the very beginning, and direct this great force to some special purpose for the general mass good, achieving something not only for themselves but also for humanity in general. If that is accomplished, it loses some of its selfishness.

This is POWER; direct it. This influence gives power for the unspoken art of

communication. Without any communication from you, they still know. They project an atmosphere when they enter a room, an atmosphere that is immediately felt by all in the room though no words are spoken. The silence is almost as successful as actual words. It is telepathic communication.

This combination creates an abundance of famous people. The Sun and Mercury here does not accept the word 'impossible'. [The most difficult combination to find for famous people is when the Mercury is in the sign ahead of the Sun.]

If the Sun sign is Sagittarius:

Mercury is the open door. It guards a person's conscious thoughts. It is our sense reactions. When the doorway is in a Water sign, the Fire ego has to come through this Water sheath. If this Sagittarian Sun has enough drive, enough enthusiasm for a given ego satisfaction, it will come through this Scorpio doorway with much more depth, much more fixed determination. This combination forces the Sagittarian into a more singular determined direction. The Mercury in Scorpio mind will limit Sagittarian excesses, forcing a more stable pattern, and will give the tendency for the Sagittarius to get to the bottom of a pursuit.

The Sagittarian will still be variable, curious about all manner of things; but the Mercury in Scorpio will give it longer staying power on a given interest and be more inclined to penetrate into the full meaning of things. This is a Mercury that may not be as expressive as other Mercury positions. However, they will be very expressive when they make a full evaluation, and not until then. In other words, they eliminate all that they believe to be unnecessary in communication. They may not have as much obvious outward charm, but they have a kind of magnetism that is hard to resist. This Sagittarian shows how they feel or what they think by facial expressions, mannerisms and an enthusiastic sparkle to their eyes. The ego trend of the Sun needs the Mercury sign to express. When a Fire sign comes through a Water Mercury, not all the enthusiasm and excitement will show. [When the opposite takes place, a Fire Mercury and a Water ego, much more enthusiasm than is actually the case may show.]

Mercury in Scorpio can easily recognize a phony, but the average Scorpio doesn't always understand why he / she thinks something or someone is phony. When this Scorpio is coupled with the Sagittarian Sun, it gives easy understanding, with the ability to explain why this or that is phony. Others would be very honest with this type of Sagittarian, for honesty and the direct approach are the best. If you want someone who can easily spot phony insurance claims or any other fraudulent financial schemes, these are the people to do it. If you are dealing with these people, and you think you can get by with something or that you are more shrewd than they are, think again, for in the end these people will expose you and run rings around you.

Scorpio is known for certain secretive qualities; and Sagittarius is known for being outspoken and exceptionally honest. The coupling of these two signs indicates people who will know when to speak and when not to speak. Sagittarius all by itself does not know when and when not to speak; they just blurt it out. However, with this influence to the Scorpio mind it makes all the difference. These people also have the talent of hypnotizing you into something they want you to do against your total acceptance. Those who would do this are the more unevolved Sun Sagittarius / Mercury Scorpio.

The Sagittarian egos will have an abundance of knowledge at their disposal, but the Scorpio Mercury will not express it all. The other person will always get the idea that these Sagittarians know more than they are saying. The secret ace in the hole for

them is their sense of timing. Be patient; just wait, and in the end you will hear from these Sagittarians, perhaps not what you want to hear, but the truth. This is the arrow that goes straight to the target and right through it.

Natal Mercury in Sagittarius

(Grant Lewi)

You tend to overlook what is right before your eyes; to neglect what is shouting right in your ear, because your attention is on bigger, or anyway farther-off, things. You don't see details. Sometimes you don't hear little squibs of conversation and thus miss the whole point. Your senses were wool-gathering, or else you fixed your attention on something else. They are keen enough, but tend to scatter; they do not need to be sharpened so much as they need to be directed. Your feet may stumble because your eyes missed the rock in the path; you get bumped by a trolley car because you didn't hear the bell. No doubt you were listening to or looking at something more important. To fix your attention, to gain dominion over the direction in which your sense are pointed, is to achieve success, for your senses are sharp enough and require only more care in their use.

(Sydney Omarr)

In Sagittarius, Mercury paints a picture of one who is fond of sports, tries to live by the Golden Rule, is fair, wants to impart or share knowledge, and is fascinated by travel, publishing, and the formation of public opinion. Indications are excellent for advertising, public relations, writing, producing, political campaigns, and the creation of editorial policy.

The astrologer must help him to see the obvious. He tends to be idealistic to the extent that others take advantage of him, and must learn to be more practical - otherwise he is in for disillusionment, especially with members of the opposite sex. He will battle for freedom of speech, but can be so concerned with the right of others to speak that he is 'shut out'. He must be taught to concentrate, to finish projects, and to take care of personal needs before worrying about the needs of strangers.

(Skye Alexander)

You are tireless in your search for knowledge and wisdom, your goal being to learn and experience everything. Everything interests you, especially subjects that have significance beyond the mundane or which offer universal truths, such as philosophy, psychology and religion. Like Mercury in Scorpio, you are not satisfied with superficial explanations or simple facts and figures; you are seeking total understanding. Your infinite curiosity can cause you to be nosy, even voyeuristic; you want to know everything about everybody.

A lifelong student, you find nothing is more pleasurable to you than learning. You also enjoy sharing your knowledge with others, and can be an inspiring and eloquent teacher. Because you are always contemplating the future and the far horizon, you can seem rather 'spacey', forgetful, impractical and disorganized. This is the position of the absent-minded professor.

You have a fantastic imagination and a way with words. A natural storyteller, you can entertain crowds for hours with amusing tales, and could turn your talents to writing. Sometimes your imagination can run away with you, however, and you have a tendency to exaggerate. Although you think of this as improving upon the original, such behavior may earn you a reputation as a liar. However, your persuasiveness and

entertaining speech could also make you an excellent salesperson.

Your vision is broad and all-encompassing. You are able to comprehend the larger picture and see how all the pieces fit together. Rather than isolating information and taking it at face value, as does Mercury in Gemini, you see it in the context of its entire environment. Thus, you are able to make interesting and even brilliant connections between things that others miss. This is the stuff of which great philosophy and humor are made, and quite probably you are witty, pointedly funny and insightful.

Sociable and very communicative, even loquacious, you'll talk to anyone who'll listen, and see every conversation as an opportunity to expand or spread your knowledge. So gregarious are you that you tend to spend a great deal of time socializing with friends, playing games, gambling, or partying. You're really rather lazy and undisciplined mentally. An idealistic dreamer, you talk a lot about what you're going to do tomorrow, but never seem to get around to actually doing it. (However, if your Sun is in Capricorn or Saturn is strongly placed in your chart, you'll be much more focused, persevering and hard-working.)

You are especially interested in seeing, learning about and talking with people from other countries or cultures, and might have a talent for languages. You probably enjoy travelling and like to drive. If you can't actually visit foreign lands, you may be an 'armchair traveller' and watch television shows about exotic places and people. Generally, you prefer to get your information from radio, TV, movies or lectures rather than from books.

Even though you are curious about people of different mindsets and cultures, you aren't particularly tolerant of belief systems that diverge radically from your own. You are more interested in spreading your own views and philosophies, and can be something of an evangelist for your opinions. In religious matters in particular, you are inclined to be a bit fanatical, self-justifying, moralistic and proselytizing. Unless you have several planets in Earth signs, you are more intent on the ideal than the reality, glorifying the spirit while denigrating the flesh.

For the most part, however, you are optimistic and look on the bright side of things. You always have something positive to say, and your enthusiasm inspires and encourages others.

Saturn or Pluto aspects to your Mercury will make you more mentally focused and disciplined.

(Frances Sakoian and Louis Acker)

Mercury in the sign Sagittarius indicates a mind concerned with all codifications of social thought, whether in the form of religion, philosophy, law, or other studies related to higher education. Mercury in Sagittarius is in the sign of its detriment, and is manifested as a primary concern with attitudes rather than facts. The result is often constructive, in giving insight into social motivation and its subsequent events. However, natives can lose sight of the truth if they do not pay enough attention to detailed factual information, the basis of all logical thought. It must be remembered that Sagittarius opposes Gemini and squares Virgo, the signs ruled by Mercury.

People with this sign position can have prophetic insight because their concern with attitudes enables them to understand what information public opinion will regard as important. This leads to the unfolding of mass destiny and karma. These people are direct in speech and will say exactly what they think; they demand mental freedom,

but their ideas seldom depart from traditional concepts or current social morality. Hence, they are usually respected in the community. But if their social conformity is carried too far, it can lead to hypocrisy, for their moral standards may be no better than the lowest common denominator of the socially accepted norm. They need to realize that an attitude is not necessarily right merely because it is popular or prevailing.

These natives desire to entrench themselves in public institutions of higher learning or social control, such as universities, churches, and government. Their purpose is to achieve intellectual authority and status, though the price may be conformity to corrupt, stagnant institutions. They like to consider themselves paragons of truth, but whether they are or not depends on how Mercury is aspected. They may tend to moral sermonizing about the obvious, and they may become pedantic.

At times there is a preoccupation with distant goals and lofty ideals, which can make the natives oblivious to what is under their noses. Neptune's co-rulership of Sagittarius can result in woolgathering tendencies.

(Julia and Derek Parker)

Traditionally, Mercury works badly here. However, provided restlessness, superficiality and some over-optimism can be controlled, much can be made of this placing. The subject will always be studying something, and should do so, since he or she truly needs intellectual stimulation. Consistency of effort must be developed, and interests should not be changed too often as restlessness and a lack of satisfaction will be inhibiting. Breadth of vision is considerable, as is a quick grasp of situations, giving the appearance of brilliance, but this may be a bluff! All will be well if a philosophical outlook and attitude can be developed. There can be a flair for languages, and travel is of great importance. If physical travel is impossible, reading about or studying far-flung countries may compensate.

If the Sun sign is Scorpio, the heavy intensity of Scorpio gets a lively fillip from Mercury, and encourages the individual not to take him- or herself quite so seriously, nor to become so obsessive over personal or psychological problems. A certain openness will be very refreshing. There is broad-mindedness and an optimistic outlook. A controlled enthusiasm will be shown; and the emotional and intuitive content of Scorpio will be positive and reasoned, generally allowing free expression of the true feelings. Important interests or hobbies will give full scope to the imagination.

If the Sun sign is Sagittarius, this is a very lively combination which needs steadying from other elements in the chart if natural Sagittarian enthusiasm and breadth of vision are not to overwhelm the subject, making it hard for him or her to cope with details. Optimism can get out of hand, too, and there will be gushing enthusiasm that fizzles out after an initially strong start. Despite these exaggerative tendencies, this placing has a lot to offer if the individual recognizes the pitfalls and ensures that restlessness (especially the mental kind) is countered. Changing to a physically demanding activity can help.

If the Sun sign is Capricorn, optimism and a more positive outlook are added to the rather serious Capricorn traits. The Capricorn off-beat sense of humor is also enhanced. The 'wet fish' element (as seen from the Capricorn goat's fishtail) is less likely to emerge, thereby giving a lively and aspirational subject. He or she will be less single-minded and doggedly persistent, and more relaxed and easy, able to cope with setbacks philosophically and without grumbling. A controlled and enthusiastic attitude can be both amusing and endearing!

(Jan Spiller and Karen McCoy)

Static

When you indulge your fears of losing the appearance of intellectual superiority, you may jump to hasty conclusions. The rational mind can become lost in empty theories with no logic or facts for a foundation. These theories may then be unwittingly presented to others in a moralizing manner, from a platform of inflated expressions of pompous self-righteousness.

Dynamic

When your attention is on clearly distinguishing emotionally biased thoughts from factual and logically based thoughts, you can relinquish the Sagittarius tendency of self-satisfied mental isolation. You then can communicate your inspired perceptions without any need to prove intellectual superiority. Your ability to uplift others is through opening a two-way sharing and communication.

(Lyn Birbeck)

You have a forthright, though potentially gushy, mind.

You see life in terms of what has to be said because it creates problems when left unsaid. This clears the air and promotes broader awareness and understanding, even though it may shock or embarrass initially. You also see life in terms of religious significance or ethical values; and in terms of everything being for the best ultimately, which is uplifting and guiding for Other.

You tend not to see that saying something simply because it is preoccupying you can make a mountain out of a molehill, or get back from Other more than you bargained for. You also tend not to see hard facts (that Other can see and tell); or that your strong opinions and values blind you to those of Other, who then has no choice but to distance him- / herself from you.

(John Townley)

You look upon sex as a very natural function, so it is not likely to be a source of great worry or anxiety to you. At the same time, it may not be a highly motivating force, either. To you, sex is just one of many areas of enjoyment and communication between partners, neither more nor less important than other forms of personal interchange. But when you get down to making love, you do it with gusto and abandon. Even though you aren't considered a swinger, you approach the sexual experience in a much more open fashion than most people, for you see no reason to be self-conscious.

Thus, sex outdoors or in other natural settings, which is too challenging or inhibiting to some, is easy and enjoyable for you. And even if you haven't the opportunity to actually do this, it is something to contemplate pleurably.

Your open attitude can make loving much easier by helping to break down the inhibitions of a lover who is willing but not quite ready to stray from the sexual straight-and-narrow. You may sometimes be a sexual teacher, not verbally, but by example and by understanding.

In your actual lovemaking, do not suppress the impulse to express yourself vigorously and vocally. It's bound to add to the excitement and should be toned down only in too-close quarters with easily upset neighbors.

(Robert Hand)

Your mind is very curious, and you want to know the answers to every question. To learn as much as you can, you ask questions of everyone who might have some new information. You are particularly interested in subjects that study the universe as a whole, such as science, or that cover a broad area of human activity, such as history or social science. You want to understand the patterns of the world around you. Your curiosity can help you greatly in school if you overcome one problem. You don't always think very carefully, and you tend to ignore details that seem too small to notice, although they may really be important. Also you often work too quickly and make mistakes as a result. You have to learn to work and think more patiently.

When you believe you are right, you speak very bluntly. You think it is dishonest to speak indirectly in the way that others consider polite. But you must be careful not to hurt people's feelings by your bluntness. Luckily it is clear to others that you don't mean to hurt them, and that you are only trying to be honest, which they can understand. Truth is very important to you.

A particular strength of this position of Mercury is that you are able to handle new ideas and concepts that others find hard to accept. A strange or unfamiliar idea intrigues you rather than bothering you. You view every new idea as a chance to grow and expand your mind. Mercury in Sagittarius is often a sign of great curiosity.

(Isabel Hickey)

Keen senses but lack concentration. Mind doesn't need sharpening but needs directing. Apt to miss details because mind is focused on farther off things. Directness of thought and expression; and are apt to say exactly what is in their mind. Do not wound deliberately as does Mercury in Scorpio; but it does not occur to them how what they say reacts on others. Their thoughts are like shooting stars. Impatient, and sometimes do not wait long enough to form correct judgements. Sincere and honest, and cannot stand deception. Thoughts disconnected. May promise with sincerity but lack patience in carrying it through. Acute perception. Need to learn to be quiet and still and reflective.

(Freda Edis)

Mercury in Sagittarius can indicate a mind which engages in an eternal quest for universal knowledge and general moral truths underpinning social formations. People with this placement can sometimes be accused of hypocrisy when their acceptance of more popular and socially agreed philosophical insights and norms leads them to forget about the need for some moral guidelines in personal interactions and relationships. Zeus himself was not above making mistakes, or playing the hypocrite in his constant unfaithfulness to Hera, sometimes with Hermes's aid, as we have seen in the myth of Argos. The far-sighted and intuitive minds of Mercury-in-Sagittarius people are often found resenting the restrictions imposed by a need to examine what is directly in front of them. Any limitation to their freedom of thought could lead these people to be harsh and direct in speech and action, while, at the same time, they want to be recognized as intellectual leaders and to achieve some moral or philosophical authority. More at home with abstract concepts and ideas, people with this placement could cultivate a rigorous honesty with themselves and pay greater attention to concrete reality and the more mundane details of their lives.

(Marcia Moore and Mark Douglas)

Keynote: The mind ranges over a variety of abstract concepts.

Symbol: A scholar compiles logical proofs of the existence of God.

Mercury is in detriment in Sagittarius because of the disproportion between the planet of specific facts and the sign of general possibilities. Sagittarian expansiveness stimulates Mercury to a fitful brilliance which may be alternately superficial and inspired. The person with this combination has big ideas but must beware lest his burgeoning mental enthusiasms make it irksome to concentrate on a single line of endeavor. The mind darts from one conclusion to another but, unless it is deliberately reined in, continuity and judgement are lacking.

At best, the Mercury-Sagittarius blend gives a profound sense of purpose and the ability to focus on distant goals. A far-reaching ambition to comprehend the mental and moral laws of the universe and to reconcile scientific and religious approaches to life results in a tendency to study several subjects simultaneously, to carry on more than one occupation, and to become involved in a number of different but related projects. Consequently, Mercurial Sagittarians often write treatises which endeavor to gather all their ideas under one cover. 'All paths lead to the same mountaintop', this individual may proclaim, but he needs to see to it that in mapping the many converging routes he does not become distracted from his own straight and narrow way.

Less-developed people of this type may give the impression of being large-minded when what they actually have is little minds in constant motion. They have an aptitude for saying the right thing at the wrong time, or out of context. Often their problem is not lack of insight but an inability to make their ideas suitable to the occasion. Their minds slip out of gear with those of others because they are so intent upon the transmission of their own thoughts.

If the Sun is in Scorpio, the Sagittarian Mercury ranges less far afield, and is inclined toward the study of psychology and sociology rather than toward abstract scholarship. The Approach to life is introspective, with a propensity for philosophical self-analysis.

The Sun and Mercury conjoined in Sagittarius indicate a love of travel with an aptitude for talking and writing interestingly about a wide variety of experiences. The mind is farsighted, and frequently more concerned with ideas than with personalities.

The Sun in Capricorn and Mercury in Sagittarius impart a talent for practical organization. There may be a tendency to dictate to others and to take strong measures to see that one's ideas are carried out. Such an individual is determined not only to understand but also to wield the law. The all-encompassing Sagittarian mind may with determinedly promote the Capricornian will to crystallize ideas into social institutions. The universality of Sagittarius may further Capricorn's sense of moral responsibility. Together these socializing influences bind people into mutually beneficial communities of interest.

The person with Mercury in Sagittarius often achieves success as a teacher, editorialist, or worker for political causes. He makes an enthusiastic propagandist, whose words travel far. He is at his best when inspired to dedicate his mind and spirit to some significant movement which broadens people's outlook on life and enables them to grow in understanding.

Natal Mercury in Capricorn

(Jan Spiller and Karen McCoy)

Static

When you indulge in Capricorn fears of losing status by not knowing the answers to everything, you can develop a pretence of being the final intellectual authority in all fields. You may use every opportunity to gather knowledge and impress others, always assuming an authoritarian attitude. This can result in alienation and a breakdown of your credibility with other people. A pretentious manner when speaking may disenchant others, provoking them to withhold information. This can lead to a constant disruption of any attempted communication.

Dynamic

When you focus on the informational needs of others, you can effortlessly share ideas relevant to the situation. When your motive in giving information is to support others, you automatically communicate true knowledge and eliminate pretence. Relinquishing the Capricorn need to maintain authority allows others to share the information necessary for further mutual advancement.

You can cease to take yourself so seriously by paying attention to the sensitivities of others. Then you can organize the situation effectively and share authority. This opens the door for others to show appreciation and respect for your abilities.

(Grant Lewi)

You never miss a trick. You can hear the grass grow, see out of the back of your head, smell garlic three blocks off, taste the faintest suggestion of flavoring, and feel the difference in the diameter of two hairs. Your sense impressions are right down to earth: you see things for what they are, without any ifs, buts or ands. You don't intrude any judgement, any moral or aesthetic or social code, between yourself and reality. Morals and judgement may exist in your life, but they have no bearing, in your mind, on things. A sofa is a sofa. A bed is a bed. The moral aspect of these pieces of useful furniture will not occur to you till someone else thinks of it. Your practical reaction to sense impressions makes your viewpoint sanest and most authentic in the world; and you can often help others to get down to cases by calling them back from irrelevant details to a contemplation of the real thing under discussion.

(Skye Alexander)

Your mind works in a logical, orderly manner. Each thought follows upon the foundation laid by its predecessor, step-by-step. Before speaking, you carefully examine and edit your words so that what you say is sensible, clear and concise. You rarely say something you don't mean or will be sorry for later. If your Sun is also in Capricorn, you won't be very talkative, speaking only when necessary or when spoken to. You prefer to communicate only with people you know well, and are shy and self-conscious when you have to speak to strangers or before a group. (If your Sun is in Aquarius or Sagittarius, however, you'll be more open, talkative and sociable.)

Mentally practical and down-to-earth, your attention is focused on the here-and-now rather than some distant horizon. Though you may not be very creative or imaginative, you are capable of deep concentration, have a good memory, and excel

at planning and organization; you get things done while others are still dreaming. Determined and persevering, you are able to focus your thoughts on a single project or idea for long periods of time; and once you put your mind to something you usually accomplish it. You are ambitious, have a good head for business, and believe in the work ethic. Your pragmatic, no-nonsense attitude can help you to succeed in the corporate world or in any field that requires common sense and clear thinking.

Your ideas and attitudes are generally conservative and traditional, and you are more inclined to look to the past for answers than to try something new or different. Cautious and sceptical, you often demand 'proof' before you'll believe something.

Although you may not learn as quickly and easily as others, you retain what you learn and find ways to apply it. It is most likely that you were a good student because you worked hard at your studies and took them seriously. You are most interested in subjects that can be used in some practical way, especially those which will benefit you professionally. Abstract ideas, philosophy, metaphysics or the arts probably don't appeal to you very much; you are more comfortable with facts and figures that you can put to work in the physical world.

Serious and rather pessimistic, you are prone to negative thinking and can be terribly critical of yourself and others. You tend to be a worrier, pensive, contemplative, and at times fearful and morbid, thinking and expecting the worst of people and situations. Such negativity can block you from achieving your goals since you sometimes believe things are worse than they are and give up before you even try.

You are a bit insecure about your mental abilities. Consequently, you work very hard to develop your intellect and want to be respected for your knowledge. Perhaps you believe that others think you are intellectually inferior; and thus you are defensive and rather touchy in this area. In truth, you aren't as witty and quick as your Mercury in Sagittarius or Aquarius counterparts. However, this doesn't mean you aren't as bright as they are. As a child, you may have been stifled intellectually or denied a good education and opportunities to expand your knowledge. To compensate, you might go back to school as an adult, work doggedly to acquire advanced degrees, or go to great lengths to demonstrate your intelligence. Or, you might attempt to prove to others (and yourself) that you don't need a degree or intelligence to succeed, and strive to become successful and wealthy despite your 'deficiency'.

If Uranus aspects your Mercury, or if your Sun is in Aquarius, you'll be more progressive, unconventional, quick and abstract in your thinking. If Jupiter or Mars aspects Mercury in your chart, or if your Sun is in Sagittarius, you'll be more outspoken, talkative, optimistic and friendly.

(Frances Sakoian and Louis Acker)

Mercury in the sign Capricorn indicates a mind that is ambitious, shrewd, practical, organized, and concerned with attaining status through material accomplishments. People with Mercury in Capricorn are capable of extended concentration and good organization. They are methodical in thought and procedure, possessing the ability to take things a step at a time; and their reasoning process is thorough, but not necessarily original. Their patience and discipline can result in mathematical ability, which can be used in business or science. Mercury in this sign also gives good managerial ability, and it belongs to many successful executives.

People with this sign position will go through traditional educational procedures as a means of reaching professional goals and improving their financial and social status. In political and social ideas, they are generally conservative, and uphold the

established order. They respect those beliefs that have proved their usefulness through the test of time. Since Capricorn, like Virgo, is an Earth sign, Mercury in this sign regards ideas as important only if they are of practical value.

These people are realistic rather than idealistic in their approach to their goals; they see everything for what it is, and are not to be deluded or taken in by false idealism. Since they have a keen sense of awareness, little of practical consequence escapes their notice. However, there is a danger that their seriousness and mental discipline will lead to a stern manner and a lack of humor.

If Mercury is afflicted in this sign, material ambition may lead to avarice and the tendency to use people to attain material goals, without regard for human values. Material status may become an end in itself, overriding human values and all other considerations.

(Julia and Derek Parker)

Although the mind usually works fairly slowly, the subject thinks in a constructive and practical way, able to form a rational and cool view of every situation. Mathematical ability is likely; but he or she will be slow when studying; and progress may be more steady than rapid. What is said is meant, and there is usually no time for idle gossip, with the subject seeming the strong and silent type. Pessimism is likely, especially if the Moon and Saturn form negative aspects, but there is often strong ambition and achievement. The approach is very matter-of-fact, and long-term planning presents few problems. Determination and decisiveness will be present unless other natal influences make the outlook bleak and depressed, when excuses may be made to cover up procrastination or lack of self-confidence. In any case, every move is calculated and made with great caution. A liking for quality and tradition is common. Achievements are often underestimated.

If the Sun sign is Sagittarius, Sagittarian over-enthusiasm and blind optimism are steadied. Common sense and a practical, cautious streak are added, plus the ability to cope with details. The broad Sagittarian sense of humor is spiced with the off-beat Capricorn slant, making the subject very funny at times. Sagittarian restlessness will be less of a problem, but versatility may be reduced.

If the Sun sign is Capricorn, lively ambition and often a positive outlook is added by the Mercury placement. The subject enjoys coping with rivals, and careful planning and forethought come easily. The mind works in a very calculated and careful way, with plenty of common sense and usually excellent mathematical and scientific potential. Sometimes there is also musical ability. A measured, steady yet slow pace is common, but what is learned is done so very thoroughly indeed.

If the Sun sign is Aquarius, Aquarian originality and perversity are steadied by the ability to think in a practical way, and stubbornness can be less of a problem. However, some conventionality will be added to Aquarian unconventionality, so the subject's opinions may swing between the two extremes. Some caution will be a counter to the Aquarian need for individuality and independence. A flair for science is present; and imagination will be shown in all intellectual pursuits.

(Syndey Omarr)

Mercury in Capricorn can be earthy, warm, giving, trusting, and capable of seeing only the best in others. This can lead to some situations which are sad, costly and enervating.

The astrologer's job is to help the native to use his abilities, including intuitive intellect. Perhaps, on the other hand, the real task is to have the native heed the message his common sense sends rather than disregarding facts and hoping for the best. He is industrious and works toward his goal, but doesn't always know in which direction the goal lies. He must be more discriminating and suspicious, and call upon personal resources rather than trusting those who perhaps are not trustworthy.

(Lyn Birbeck)

You have a methodical, though potentially rigid, mind.

You see life in terms of tried and true procedures, thereby enabling you to grasp the essential facts of an issue and discuss things in a step-by-step, logical fashion that creates order. You see things as being efficient or inefficient, useful or useless - and so you put across to Other what you set out to put across, as well as achieving an objective that you always have in mind.

You tend not to see issues and factors concerning Other that fall outside your rigidly set view of things; Other will ultimately take advantage of this if you fail to listen and learn from him / her. You also tend not to see that Other may have plans that will include you only if you alter your agenda and criteria. So take time out to see someone who can help you achieve this.

(John Townley)

When it comes to sex, you are not overly verbal, but you are fairly clear and firm in your opinions about it. That is an advantage, in that one can suffer from too much uncertainty about sex. But don't let your set ideas cause you to become too conservative or unwilling to try something new. You could miss out on a lot that way.

It is a good idea to ask your partner about what pleases him or her most in bed, because with your direct approach to lovemaking you could easily pass over something that is very important to your lover. Once you know your lover's tastes, you will take care to fulfil them in a thoughtful fashion. Be sure to ask again from time to time, for your lover's needs may change; and the more aware you are of them, the better.

It is very likely that you agree with the common views of what is normal and abnormal in a sexual relationship. But you can enjoy unusual sexual expression precisely because it is unusual and therefore exciting. If you avoid different experiences without question, your sex life will be less interesting.

Because of your self-assurance, it may seem natural to you to dominate your partner sexually. But you should try not to do this, even though it seems easiest and best for both of you at first. Instead, seek out your lover's thoughts and fantasies, and give them equal weight with yours. That kind of true interplay will always enrich your relationship.

(Robert Hand)

You like to think and plan very carefully, for you have a cautious mind, and you don't want to jump to conclusions. Your mind does not work very quickly, but your carefulness makes up for that. You are good at organizing yourself and others, so you can direct activities if necessary. These talents may be useful in business when you grow up. You are a practical thinker, and you want to learn skills that will be useful in life.

You do not like to study abstract subjects for their own sake. You want to know about life as it really is; and unlike many people of your age when young, you don't spend times in dreams and fantasies. But be careful not to become too narrow. Many aspects of the world may not seem interesting to you at first, and your practical mind may reject them as unimportant. However, if you ignore these ideas, you may miss out on something.

Inwardly, you are a serious person, and your thoughts are serious. As a result, you may seem older than most people your age in youth, because adults feel they can rely on you. However, even though you are basically serious, you can be quite funny. You take the world so seriously that you have to make jokes about the things that bother you, in order to deal with them. Mercury in this sign is often associated with comedians.

(Freda Edis)

Ambitious and practical organizers, people with Mercury placed in Capricorn tend to a realistic mode of thought, and may be wary of any ideas which seem nebulous or unconcerned with achieving some materially secure status. Hard-working and with patient if somewhat plodding minds, these people think conventionally and methodically, one step at a time, often dismissing the joys of speculative thought as unproductive time-wasting. They value a disciplined and serious form of mental expression, and can seem to be of a humourless turn of mind as they struggle to achieve professional and material goals - there was nothing very humourless about Saturn devouring his own children through fear of being usurped. Steady and logical, though perhaps unoriginal thinkers, people with this placement incline to a thorough knowledge of practical affairs and established institutions. Some practical idealism and an acceptance of human inconsistency would help to counterbalance the depressing effects of the more negative qualities of this combination.

(Marcia Moore and Mark Douglas)

Keynote: Thoughts are expressed clearly and rationally.

Symbol: A librarian arranges books according to a master plan.

Saturn-ruled Capricorn tinctures the Mercurial mind with patience, prudence, and practicality. People subject to this combination expedite their plans in a thorough and systematic manner, and can generally be counted on to carry out their stated intentions. Their ability to present well-timed and clearly reasoned ideas gives them a dignified and sensible demeanor. Even if they happen to be wrong, they command respect, for they seldom indulge in foolish or silly chatter.

Mercury and Saturn maintain their friendly relations with each other throughout the zodiac. Saturn issues orders which Mercury, the servant of the gods, willingly obeys. The heavy vibrations of Capricorn endow this quicksilver planet with the stability it inherently lacks, while Mercury contributes wit and skill to the Capricornian determination to succeed. A child of the happy marriage of Mercury and Saturn is the dictionary which serves as a final authority on words. While this planetary union is not inherently creative, it can, like a dictionary, serve as an invaluable aid in giving proper expression to talents shown elsewhere in the chart.

Just as the cohesiveness of the body (Saturn) is co-ordinated by the nervous system (Mercury), so is the cohesiveness of a nation derived from its system of internal communications. Ancient Rome was able to achieve greatness because of the efficiency of the communications network linking the central government with the

far-flung reaches of the empire. Even after the empire collapsed, Roman writings, laws, and administrative procedures endured through the centuries. Words enabled the dead to rule the living and perpetuate the power of the past. Thus, Mercury and Capricorn co-operate to form lasting structures bound together by words and ideas.

Although this combination may give a wry humor, it is not really lighthearted since pessimism is the price Mercury must pay for Saturn's mature judgement. There is too realistic an assessment of the foibles and limitations of human nature to feel particularly cheerful about the prospects for humanity in general.

When the Sun is in Sagittarius and Mercury is in Capricorn, the mind has a longer tether. There may be greater optimism and religious idealism, but less single-minded concentration on the task at hand. As a manager, supervisor, guide, or teacher this individual may do better training others in practical skills than carrying them out himself.

The person whose Sun and Mercury are both in Capricorn seldom changes his mind, and should beware of becoming stiff and opinionated. Respect for tradition can impede progress as conservative Saturn freezes the Mercurial intellect into static patterns of thought. On the positive side, these individuals have the courage of their convictions, and will struggle dauntlessly to make their ideas accepted.

If the Sun has gone ahead of Mercury into Aquarius, the mind is more original and independent. This is a helpful blend for organized research. It facilitates the translation of progressive concepts into the type of laboratory oratory sanctioned by the arbiters of scientific orthodoxy.

Mercury in Capricorn can be serious or censorious, exact or exacting, dogged or dogmatic. The mind concentrates and directs thought with deliberate intent, but the purposes for which this gift will be used are still contingent on the age of the soul.

(Isabel Hickey)

Good concentrative power. Dignity and earnestness. Good memory and attention to detail. Tendency to lack of humor; and can be 'heavy' because of it. Can be bored due to their lack of empathy. Down-to-earth type, which can be wonderful if they don't forget their branches reach to the sky. Old head on young shoulders. Tendency toward moodiness and sulking. Apt to be 'earthbound' and need to learn joy. Fear strong where material things are concerned. Needs to cultivate faith and optimism. School-teacher type. Makes excellent teachers and excellent diplomats if they do not overdo on intolerance and sternness.

Natal Mercury in Aquarius

(Jan Spiller and Karen McCoy)

Static

By indulging in fears of losing mental objectivity, the Aquarius rational mind can become cold and detached from feeling or empathetic intuition. Thus, sensitivity to others in communication may be lost. By immersing yourself in nonjudgemental objectivity, you can inadvertently alienate others with a brittle barrier. Fear of losing a detached concept of universal love can bring on abstract and thoughtless retorts to the personal communications of others. This may keep people at a distance.

Dynamic

When your attention focuses on making personal connection with others, you can become aware of their sensitivities. Recognizing the individuality in others enables you to apply the ideal of universal love. You are able to establish a connection for communication that allows others to share these unique ways of perceiving life. This is done by opening yourself to experience mental empathy with others. You experience ease in getting your point across when your ability for objective communication is tempered by an awareness of both the point of view of others and their emotional sensitivities.

(Skye Alexander)

Ideas come to you as bursts of insight. Mentally hyperactive, you never stop thinking and have a great deal of trouble slowing down to meditate or rest, for your thoughts are always racing in a dozen different directions and tripping over themselves. You tend to think and speak in fragments, rarely taking time to sort out and organize the profusion of ideas that flash on and off in your head. This is the position of the inventor, the scientist, the person who sees connections that others miss. You may have trouble, however, bringing your ideas down to earth and applying them in practical ways.

You are always looking to the future, and your ideas and attitudes are usually ahead of their time. Others may think you are a little bit crazy, or at least eccentric. Certainly your concepts and beliefs are out-of-the-ordinary and uniquely yours. You take pleasure in being unusual, quirky and avant-garde, and enjoy provoking more traditional people with your unconventional attitudes. You have no patience with the 'old ways', and little respect for the past. But because you never look back, you fail to learn from history and others' mistakes.

More egalitarian than most people, you judge others according to what they know, not what they own or who they are. You believe in equality and fairness, and are willing to stand up and speak out for what you believe. A humanitarian, you are concerned with the plight of the underdog and 'the people', and may be something of a social reformer. However, your interest is purely theoretical and abstract; regardless of what you say about equality for all, you really think that you are just a bit superior and more knowledgeable than everyone else.

You love to rebel against the system; to support causes and ideas that are controversial, revolutionary, unpopular or simply ahead of their time. However, you are an idealist and often forget to take into account the real-life complexities and underlying dynamics that surround the structures and attitudes you are attacking. Outspoken, irreverent and undiplomatic, you might find yourself frequently in trouble with authorities. You hold strongly and stubbornly to your beliefs, regardless of what others think, and will argue your point endlessly. Nothing pleases you more than a good debate. Something of an evangelist for your ideas, you want to convert everyone else to your way of thinking. Your technique is rarely subtle, though; and your abrasive, haughty attitude can put off as many people as it attracts.

Insatiable in your thirst for knowledge, you learn eagerly, and like to impress people with what you know. At times, you come off as a know-it-all. Because you grasp concepts so quickly, you can be impatient with others who need more time to absorb and process information. Your interest in anything new and different, unconventional or controversial might cause you to pursue such fields as computer science, electronics, aerospace, astrology and metaphysics.

Talkative and gregarious, you enjoy sharing ideas with others and probably have

numerous friends and / or associates. Although you are quite sociable, you can be rather aloof and cerebral. You like to talk with others, but tend to keep conversation focused on generalities, abstractions and impersonal topics, never revealing much about yourself other than your ideals.

A dynamic and colorful speaker, you have the ability to inspire others and to organize groups of people. Often strongly political, you are eager to spread your ideas to the public, and might put your intellectual and verbal abilities to work making speeches about soci-political issues such as nuclear disarmament, environmental consciousness and human rights. You are the type who writes to your Congressional representatives and your local newspaper; and you never miss an opportunity to express your views.

Saturn aspects to your Mercury will help focus your thinking and make your ideas more practical. Venus aspects can soften your abrasiveness and increase your diplomacy.

(Frances Sakoian and Louis Acker)

Mercury in the sign Aquarius indicates a mind that is open to new experience. The ability to see things in the light of impersonal truth gives a mind that is truthful, unbiased, and objective. To people with this position, the truth must come first; they have little concern for traditional or socially acceptable ideas if these conflict with facts or first-hand experience. Here is the secret of their originality. Because of their impersonal objectivity, these people are not easily surprised by anything they may see or experience. Thus they can accept things others would find unnerving or incomprehensible.

Mercury in Aquarius is in its exaltation; consequently, these individuals have the ability to know that reason exists as a patterning of the Universal Mind, of which the individual mind is but a submechanism. Thus, Mercury in Aquarius manifests its highest intuitive faculties through communication with the larger Universal Mind, transcending the individual ego. The ability of the natives to experience extends beyond the five physical sense. Because Aquarius is a fixed sign, the mental energy is stabilized and concentrated, so that it is capable of receiving ideas from the archetypal realms of consciousness. Some have the ability to perceive the mind itself as an energy field and its contents as energy patterns. People with Mercury in Aquarius are likely to be telepathic.

The direct experience of higher states of energy also gives scientific insight into the workings of material manifestations. Natives see reality as it is on the microcosmic level - a pattern of energy pulses in motion. Because Saturn co-rules Aquarius, there is good mental organization and concentration, often leading to mathematical ability, which is one reason why this position produces scientists.

The ability to see things in broad terms promotes humanitarianism and concern with the spiritual unfolding of humanity. This is an excellent position for astrology and all forms of occult study.

People with this position of Mercury like to function in conjunction with others; hence they become involved with group and organizational work. They seek mental stimulation through friendship.

(Julia and Derek Parker)

The mind is quick, and the individual usually has considerable originality, especially in opinions and ideas. There will be an intellectual approach to problems, and

dynamism, most apparent when communicating with others. However, he or she can be stubborn and perverse, and perhaps slightly hysterical under stress. Nervous tension can cause problems, and it may be hard to unwind (either or both are likely if Mercury is negatively aspected by Mars or Uranus). Consistency of effort must be developed. The subject is usually very friendly and helpful, with the quick mind necessary to assess problems succinctly and speedily. Unusual studies or hobbies often fascinate, and there may be an attraction to the deep past or distant future. The Aquarian humanitarian traits are present, and the subject may do well when raising money or bringing injustice to light. Creative ability can also be increased if shown elsewhere in the chart.

If the Sun sign is Capricorn, then in the blending of originality of thought with Capricorn conventionality, a burning need to be an individualist (where ideas are concerned) may clash with love of tradition and the Capricorn need to do the 'right and proper thing'. It is to be hoped that such problems will be resolved when the individual comes to terms with his or her personality. The ambitious Capricorn will use an original approach to achieve objectives, but progress may be erratic - as is the case when the subject is studying. This placing adds a lively spark to the sometimes rather serious Capricorn. There is considerable objectivity, with the ability to detach the self from personal problems.

If the Sun sign is Aquarius, then while considerable originality is likely, stubbornness and often perversity are present; and under extreme circumstances it can be hard for the subject to accept that he or she is being difficult. This group is usually at the forefront of its generation; but as individuals get older they can be reluctant to reassess opinions, so tend to fall behind the times. There is great objectivity, personal detachment, friendliness and helpfulness; but Aquarian unpredictability will be spiced with unexpected statements and opinions. Flexibility of mind must be developed.

If the Sun sign is Pisces, then Piscean emotions will be countered by the ability to think objectively. The subject can be detached from his or her feelings, so is not usually overwhelmed by them. Natural intuition is also controlled by more logical thinking processes. Piscean sympathy and kindness blends well with the humanitarian element of Mercury in Aquarius - help is given because it is seen to be needed, as well as because the individual is moved by a surge of emotion. The imagination is good and can be used originally and creatively, but Piscean self-confidence needs boosting if the most is to be made of this potential. Again, Mercury will help, since it enables Pisces to think positively.

(Grant Lewi)

All your senses are keen, alert, strong and sensitive. There is a robustness about your contemplation of the real world that is not injured by a very keen sense of beauty. Your great ability is to see beauty in things without finding it necessary to deny their reality. Conversely, you make all useful things as beautiful as possible; and thus believe in the utility of art and the art of utility. Nothing real is likely to be offensive to you if it has a use; you will smell the odors of a pigsty less than others because you are thinking of bacon rather than of filth. But on the other hand, the beauty of an army will leave you cold because you will shudder at the slaughter. Your sense reactions are conditioned by a rugged and realistic approach to experience that causes you to regard everything you see, hear and touch in the light of your appraisal of its utilitarian and artistic merits; and little reaches you through the senses without passing through this nicely balanced court of values.

(Lyn Birbeck)

You have an original, though potentially scatty, mind.

You see life in terms of truth and knowledge, and so are able to make Other aware of issues and factors that are powerfully influential but not obvious. You also see life in terms of both progressive and sentimental thinking; and in terms of an unusual, free-thinking and non-judgemental way that allows Other to express him- / herself openly, thereby creating understanding almost magically.

You tend not to see what Other is actually feeling, because you are too busy with some theory of how things ought to be, or even how Other ought to be feeling. You also tend not to see that Other is not so far-seeing as you are, or when you are being hare-brained; and that Other cannot easily appreciate your apparently contradictory thought processes.

(John Townley)

Contemplating sexual experimentation may be quite stimulating to you, but the experience itself may be less exciting than thinking about it. But don't hold back because of that fact - all your experiments will be pleasurable and enlightening, and you will treasure the knowledge and understanding that you gain thereby.

You may be quite curious, particularly about the more unusual forms of sexual expression; but you are also cautious, and you won't jump into a situation without first doing some background research.

This may entail reading about the subject beforehand, or even watchign others so that you know what you're getting into. Puritan mores to the contrary, this can be a particularly pleasant way of enjoying sexuality, for it leaves your mind free to savor each detail without having to think about every move. This is particularly true with unusual forms of sex, which may indeed be difficult to accomplish and are better enjoyed visually, perhaps followed by easier and more natural lovemaking.

You can be quite varied in your approach to loving, because you understand so many different aspects of sexuality. Thus you can be an excellent lover for any partner you choose, whatever the style or preference.

(Robert Hand)

You think the way you want, and it is very difficult for anyone to change your mind. Once an idea or opinion is fixed in your mind, you hold on to it stubbornly. However, you look at the world with few already set beliefs, so you can see aspects of it that others overlook. This makes your mind highly original. Also you are attracted to unusual, even fantastic, points of view about the world. You enjoy being unconventional and shocking people with your offbeat opinions. No ordinary standards of what is proper will prevent you from thinking a certain way. You demand lots of mental excitement, so old or traditional ideas are not interesting to you.

Many people with Mercury in Aquarius are very good at science and mathematics, because these subjects require thinking that is quick and original as well as accurate. Your mind is objective and clear; and you do not let your emotions influence you to do something that isn't logical. In fact, you may find it very unpleasant to be around people who get carried away by their feelings. But don't let yourself believe that you have all the correct opinions. You may cling stubbornly to your own viewpoints. But try to see the merit in other people's beliefs as well.

(Freda Edis)

Mercury in Aquarius inclines the mind to give importance to humanitarian values, and encourages a detached and objective, if sometimes impersonal, mental expression. Again, both the archetype and the shadow are apparent here. People with this combination can be original thinkers with unconventional minds, though perhaps rather rebellious and eccentric at times, like Prometheus himself. This tendency could put them at odds with more conservative types. If they feel misunderstood, they can become annoyed and excessively determined, bringing in some Uranian tyranny to prove a point. This often works against their best interests, particularly because they also seek co-operation and friendship with others at a mental and intellectual level.

If prevented from expressing themselves intellectually, or otherwise being unable to do so, these people can be badly wounded in the area of creative thought. As a result, they could become biased in speech, nervously tense and apprehensive, or, in their frustration, disruptive of others' thought processes. Like Prometheus, they need some freedom of thought to pursue their own truths, the beneficial and original results of which they can then offer to humanity; but this needs to be balanced by a concern for other people's feelings. Tranquillity and emotional warmth are qualities they could learn to develop to help them offset an overemphasis on intellectual capacities.

(Marcia Moore and Mark Douglas)

Keynote: Ideas circulate through space-transcending media.

Symbol: A youth talks by radio to people in foreign lands.

Some astrologers believe that Mercury is exalted in Aquarius rather than in Virgo. Other accounts account for the affinity between planet and sign by calling Uranus a 'higher octave' of Mercury. In any event, the sign of invention encourages the operations of the planet of intellect. Aquarian electricity provides a basis for Mercurial communications, and makes possible the worldwide connections which are serving to usher in the Aquarian Age of brotherhood and scientific enlightenment.

People conditioned by this Uranus-ruled sign are not only versatile but also able to put their thoughts to work in practical ways. Saturn, as co-ruler of Aquarius, disciplines the mind and prepares it to hold up under the galvanic impact of Uranus. Saturn also stiffens the spine so that these individuals pay scant heed to what others may think of them. Critics may regard them as abrupt, eccentric, or rebellious. Yet they follow their own convictions and, by resisting pressure to conform to conventional opinions, often succeed in unexpected ways.

Mercurial Aquarians should circulate freely and expose themselves to new and stimulating ideas. They are at their best working with like-minded associates on a friendly but impersonal basis. It may be difficult for them to establish profound emotional relationships, but they can be at ease in groups, and are able to express their ideas lucidly and rationally. They gravitate toward the communications industries, and enjoy work connected with books, magazines, and broadcasting. Many have a talent for electronics and for handling complex scientific apparatus.

If the Sun is in Capricorn and Mercury is in Aquarius, the personality is sufficiently well-grounded to translate ideas into effective action. The temperament will be more scientific than artistic; and lucidity of expression will be preferred to the cultivation of a distinctly personal style. Such people are capable of presenting age-old truths in an up-to-date manner, rendering them more applicable to the contemporary scene.

If the Sun and Mercury are both in Aquarius, the mind seeks new, more effective channels of expression. These people are thinkers, inventors, and innovators. Often they are drawn to aviation or to the theoretical sciences. Their intellects are bright and unclouded by emotion (unless other aspects interfere), and they can think rationally about controversial issues.

When the Sun is in Pisces and Mercury is in Aquarius, the temperament is more artistically than scientifically inclined. This is a fine position for a performer who communicates to a large audience via radio or television. These sensitive souls are convinced that they are different from others, and are prone to feel misunderstood. They are acutely responsive to the ideas and impressions that assail their minds.

Mercury in Aquarius has a clear-sighted and forward-looking quality, but the resultant ideas may be too progressive to gain widespread popularity. Nevertheless, time (Saturn) works on the side of the native of this sign, and in many cases he needs only to wait for the times to catch up with him. He is not likely to change his opinion; but the winds of change blow in his favor and he may be surprised to find former adversaries swinging around to his point of view.

(Isabel Hickey)

This is a good position for Mercury. The combination of Saturn and Uranus helps to steady the mind, making it resourceful, intuitive, and a good judge of human character. Keen wit. Not earthbound, but when afflicted it can be extremely stubborn. Excellent for balance and good sense. Writing and speaking comes easily to one with the mind in this sign. Usually involved with groups or organizations.

Natal Mercury in Pisces

(Jan Spiller and Karen McCoy)

Static

When you indulge in Pisces fears of losing a vision of how perfect the ideal could be, you may sacrifice reality for a private world of fantasy. You may withhold intuitive perceptions for fear of being invalidated by others. Then the ability to communicate clearly becomes muddled and lost in the distractions of your emotional world. When you retreat into your private reality and exclude interaction with others, you may lose those relevant perceptions that can help to make your thought manifest.

Dynamic

You can focus your attention on the reality of spiritual poverty and confusion that is seen in daily life. This vision inspires you to rise above fears and make a real contribution to others. Communicating your creative and intuitive abilities allows others to enter through into your psychic perceptions. Ideals can become a healing reality in the world when you make a tangible contribution by communicating your intuitive vision.

(Grant Lewi)

Your sensitiveness to impressions from the outer world is conditioned by the use they can be to you personally. You see, hear, feel and taste what you want to. If you want to like a pie (because someone you love made it for you, it will actually taste to you like the best pie in the world. If you want to dislike a drawing (because someone you

dislike drew it, it will look hideous to you. Your approach to things is far from scientific; you have to struggle to exercise an objective judgement - to see anything for its own sake, without the intrusion of some personal irrelevancy that alters your vision and therefore your judgement. If your best friend has the voice of a screech owl, you'll think it music; and if your worst enemy were a Caruso, you'd actually believe he was singing off-key. Depersonalization of the approach to life is what you need to study, if you are to see the world as it is and not always in it a reflection of yourself. You probably think you are the fairest-minded person in the world, and may be as far as abstract justice is concerned. But in what reaches you through your senses, beware of the intrusion of personal biases. Let a spade be a spade. Even if it is digging your own grave, you can't make it into a screwdriver by wishing you didn't have to die!

(Skye Alexander)

You rarely pay attention to the here-and-now or the sidewalk in front of you. A dreamer, you are more concerned with your fantasies, your creations or the spiritual world than with remembering to pay your 'phone bill or studying for an exam.. The day-to-day functioning of the mundane world doesn't interest you in the slightest; and sometimes it's hard to determine if you really live here on Earth or are just visiting.

At times it can be difficult talking with you. You drift in and out of conversations; and your mind always seems to be preoccupied with something else. Your thoughts are not expressed completely or coherently; and often what you say is so highly personal, muddled or abstracted from reality that others have trouble understanding you.

You probably have a fantastic imagination and are artistically oriented. You see and hear things others don't, and are acutely sensitive to color and sound. Communicating with images or music is easier for you than using language skills; even if you can barely write a coherent sentence, you are able to get your point across brilliantly in other ways. You need to be careful, however, not to let your imagination run away with you. In the extreme, this Mercury placement can signify someone who loses all touch with reality, communicating with spirits, seeing hallucinations or retreating into a fantasy world of his / her own making.

Your keen sensitivity might put you in touch with the unseen realms. Often you 'know' what others are thinking or feeling, and you are quite psychic, or at least intuitive and perceptive. Because you are not so tightly bound to the physical world, it is easier for you than for most people to develop higher consciousness and connection to the Source. You find solace in meditation, prayer and spiritual thought, and might be interested in religious pursuits.

Your retreat from the harsh demands of the physical world may take the form of escapism, rather than spiritual involvement - Mercury in Pisces tends to be lazy, and the spiritual life is demanding and requires much discipline. In some cases, this placement can signify a person who uses alcohol, drugs or other escapist tactics as a way of avoiding responsibilities or facing up to truths about his / her life. Or, you simply may find daily life boring and seek to heighten your experience of it with mind-altering substances instead of working to develop your talents in interesting ways.

Your lack of involvement with the 'real world' can cause you to be extremely idealistic and naive; and you tend to look at life through the proverbial 'rose-tinted glasses'. Gentle, sympathetic and trusting, you usually see the good in everyone and miss the bad. As a result, it is easy to fool you; and you can be taken in by unscrupulous people. You are especially susceptible to hard-luck stories. Impressionable and

lacking in discrimination, you let others influence you too much and rarely make up your own mind. You can be swayed by any half-baked argument or idea. Often your opinions are based on hazy impressions or romantic notions, and lack substance or logic. You need to exercise special care in important business or personal decisions, signing contracts, making investments, etc..

If Saturn aspects your Mercury, you'll be more practical, realistic and mentally disciplined. Mars aspects will make you more assertive and individualistic.

(Frances Sakoian and Louis Acker)

Mercury in the sign Pisces indicates a vivid imagination and a photographic ability to visualize thoughts and memories. People with this position are highly intuitive and telepathic on the unconscious level; they are, therefore, easily influenced in their thinking through subliminal suggestion, as they tune in unconsciously to the thoughts and moods of those around them. They arrive at conclusions not through logical reasoning but rather on the basis of intuitive perceptions that float up from the unconscious mind. They learn more by osmosis than through disciplined study.

The mind can be biased by unconscious emotional patterns based on past experiences, as is Mercury in Cancer. If Mercury is afflicted in Pisces, the mind will be in danger of being trapped in memories, to the point that the perception of present reality is distorted. This can lead to neurotic conditions in extreme cases. Because of the extreme sensitivity and imagination of Mercury in Pisces, poetic and artistic abilities are often manifested. These people are sympathetic; they can imagine how it is to be in another person's situation because they have been in similar situations themselves. At times their emotions are too easily preyed upon.

Pisces is a mutable sign, and fluctuating emotions can cause vacillation in thinking, decision-making, and communication. There can also be a tendency to daydream and woolgather. The fact that the natives like to be secretive and keep their private thoughts to themselves can result in shyness and seclusion.

Mercury afflicted in Pisces can mean a morbid imagination and a persecution complex. The individual may be oversensitive, and may sense personal criticism even when it was not intended. He needs to become more impersonal in his thinking and perception of reality; in this respect, this position is similar to Mercury in Cancer.

(Julia and Derek Parker)

The mind works in a disorganised and intuitive way; decisions and opinions will emerge rather than be consciously taken. Kindness, sympathy and empathy for others is considerable, but often there is forgetfulness and even carelessness, leading to confusing situations that the individual finds difficult to resolve. It is difficult to develop constructive thinking and practicality. However, a practical approach is not entirely necessary, for the subject's strong intuitions are usually right. Much care is needed when coping with worry, for there is vivid imagination which can make the subject fear the worst. A tendency to take the line of least resistance is sometimes combined with deceitfulness. Usually when untruths are told it is in order not to hurt others, but cunning is not altogether absent. This placing does not support self-confidence; and shyness or self-effacement is sometimes present.

If the Sun sign is Aquarius, the rather brittle Aquarian traits are softened, and the humanitarian qualities of Pisces are warmed and sympathetically expressed. The creative and very original imagination must find specific areas of expression, perhaps through some unusual, off-beat hobby or career. There is much more flexibility of

mind and opinion, and usually the emotional level is greatly heightened, perhaps with less ability to be detached from the feelings. Aquarian perversity and unpredictability are less evident, since Mercury in Pisces contributes considerable sensitivity towards other people's feelings.

If the Sun sign is Pisces, the subject often becomes rather scatter-brained, surrounded by confusion and muddle. However, here is also great kindness and sympathy, and a wonderful imagination which must be channelled and constructively used. When under stress, there may be a tendency to deceive the self and others by falling back on negative escapism. Parents whose children have this placing must gently but firmly encourage truthfulness. Any indication of creative potential should be encouraged, as self-expression through the arts (especially photography) is desirable.

If the Sun sign is Aries, Arian assertiveness is softened, and selfishness is less likely to be a problem (but consider the Venus sign in this respect). Arian decisiveness will not be quite so strong; and forgetfulness, especially over small matters, can cause great annoyance to the active, energetic Arian. This is most likely when he or she is being unduly hasty. The increased intuition of the placing is a help, particularly when assessing competitors' actions and reactions to situations. The emotional level of Aries is increased, but the subject is less likely to be easily roused to anger.

(Sydney Omarr)

In Pisces, Mercury presents the picture of a native whose fears may prove to be his greatest assets. Once the native recognizes fear as a challenge, he overcomes it and becomes a dynamic, useful member of society. Otherwise, he is obsessed by lack of security, lack of confidence, and a feeling of unworthiness.

He must face issues squarely, and be willing to admit mistakes, and to accept credit for a job well done. He should be helped to overcome false modesty. This native must learn to speak out, and to stand up for his convictions. He is able to analyze the problems of others but is shy about calling the shots on his own difficulties. He is fascinated by secrets, and would make a wonderful historian because he enjoys digging for facts. He is receptive to the needs of others, but must be helped to help himself.

(Lyn Birbeck)

You have a sensitive, though potentially deluded, mind.

You see life in terms of myriad impressions from which you are able to gain uncannily accurate insights into Other's emotional and mental states, thereby making him / her feel that you are very much in tune with him / her. You also see it in terms of intuitive images rather than logical interpretations, so you express yourself best visually, poetically or suggestively.

You tend not to see what the reality of a situation is when you become over-sensitized by your own desires and fears regarding Other, and so you consequently get the wrong end of the stick. You also tend not to see how you bend the truth in order to avoid confronting what Other is thinking, feeling, saying or being, because mistakenly you fear your own weaknesses being brought to light.

(John Townley)

You don't talk about sex very much, not because you are inhibited or uninterested, but because words don't seem necessary and can't really express your feelings on the subject. Your style of loving is very tender; and in expressing it you give yourself totally to your lover. All you really need for fulfillment is a quiet understanding of the love you share.

Although giving of yourself is your clearest expression of love for your partner, do not give, particularly sexually, unless you really feel like it. If you do, sex will become a task and an obligation rather than a free and open expression of loving. If you want to be heavily self-sacrificing sexually, express it in bedroom games for that purpose rather than in emotional servitude, which will only hurt your relationship.

You don't necessarily need to be in a relationship all the time, because you are able to sublimate your sexual energies through a variety of other channels when the right lover isn't around.

It may take time and care to find just the right person; but when you do make up your mind, it will probably happen in a flash. Ideally, in such a partnership you both will use sexuality to uplift and transcend your personalities, making your oneness greater than the sum of its parts.

(Robert Hand)

You have a very rich imagination, and you love to spend time daydreaming and making up fantasies. However, you may have to put more effort into thinking about the real world, because you can't live in dreams all the time. But you can put your imagination to good use in writing stories or poems, for you can see the world in ways that are hidden from many others. Your biggest task is to learn to communicate your ideas clearly to others. Sometimes you find it hard to speak or write clearly, for that requires you to present your ideas one at a time and in order. But your ideas don't come to you in an orderly way - you think with feelings and images.

Sometimes it is difficult for you to be objective, because your emotions influence your thinking so much. This means that making decisions is difficult, but it also means that you are unusually sensitive to other people's feelings. You are able to sense their moods and emotions even before they say anything.

You are not interested in subjects like science and math, and you may find them difficult because they seem cold and unfeeling. Their careful logic is colorless and boring to you.

Sometimes this position means that you are easily influenced by other people. Certainly you pick up their ideas very quickly, even without knowing it. As you get older, you will have to be more aware of this tendency, because without knowing it you may be influenced by beliefs that you do not agree with.

(Freda Edis)

Those people with Mercury in Pisces may be intuitive thinkers with impressionable imaginations. Highly receptive to the thoughts and feelings of others, their mental processes may reflect not logical thought of their own, but almost visual perceptions which they have unconsciously received from others. Sometimes they have difficulty recognizing quite where their knowledge comes from. Their minds operate with a sensitivity so great that they can misinterpret reality, particularly when the contents of the unconscious are stirred up by present emotional experiences. They can vacillate between two modes of thought, often expressing themselves as optimistic at

one moment and pessimistic the next, communicating these states of mind in a very subjective way. Others may interpret this tendency as wool-gathering and indecision, being unable to see the enormous empathy and compassion of which these people are capable. Recognizing the occasional need to draw boundaries between themselves and others and to trust their own mental processes would help those with Mercury in Pisces to connect with unconscious personal and collective emotional influences in a more realistic manner.

(Marcia Moore and Mark Douglas)

Keynote: The mind is impressionable and intuitive.

Symbol: A child listens to the sound of the sea in a shell.

Although Mercury is in detriment in Pisces, this position does not impair intelligence. It merely suggests that the mind resists the rule of pure logic and refuses to be pinned down to hard facts. There are, on the other hand, soft facts pertaining to the realms of instinct and intuition which are no less significant realities in the scheme of existence.

Mercury is also in its fall in this sign, showing that ultimately criticism and analysis must be dissolved in compassion, thereby making love rather than intellect the guiding principle of life. The attitude characteristic of this placement is expressed in the following anonymous quatrain: 'Reason has moons, but moons not hers lie mirrored on the sea, confounding her astronomers, but oh, delighting me'.

Whimsical and poetic, Mercurial Pisceans are likely to succeed in fields which allow them to make use of their creative imagination and love of fantasy. Sometimes they are aware of circumstances and events without knowing how or why. Ideas filter through the pores of their minds, coming unbidden for obscure reasons. Pisceans may also have psychic or mediumistic talents.

Members of this sign are well suited to be writers, musicians, actors, or entertainers. Because of their mental permeability, they excel in any capacity in which the mind serves as a sounding board for the transmission of subtle impulses and impressions. Literally, their conduct depends upon the quality of the energies they conduct through their sensitive nervous systems. Often they appear to be absent-minded and indecisive simply because they are functioning as instruments for, rather than originators of, the thoughts that waft them hither and yon.

If the Sun is in Aquarius and Mercury is in Pisces, vision and imagination can be turned to widescale humanitarian enterprises. These people, although basically rational, may have unusual ideas which are in advance of conventional modes of thinking; and they are fascinated by the unsolved mysteries of science and what they may imply.

When the Sun and Mercury are both in Pisces, the mind is more inspired, but it is also edged with a certain flightiness unless the ability to concentrate is shown elsewhere in the chart. These susceptible souls often suffer emotionally as a result of their thin-skinned impressionability. Frequently misunderstood, they may withdraw into themselves and become reclusive. Yet they are generally kind, helpful, and eager to be of assistance to people in trouble. They need protection because, due to their willingness to listen to any tale of woe, they are easily duped.

The Sun in Aries and Mercury in Pisces endow a person with less vulnerability to deception and a more positive disposition. He is better adapted to translate intuitive ideas into action and to give overt expression to the impulses which arise out of the

unconscious.

According to tradition, Pisces is the sign of illusion and limitation. These two concepts go together because most of man's limitations stem from his illusions. Reality knows no bounds; it is only the world of phenomenal appearances which is hemmed in by limitations. The only reason these illusions have so much potency is that they have some connection, however tenuous, with the reality they veil.

Metaphysically, the significance of the astrological dictum that Mercury is in its detriment and also its fall in Pisces lies in the fact that the spiritually evolved person can begin to transcend the ratiocinations of the concrete mind and start to function on the plane of pure reason and intuition. He grasps the implications of the ancient Oriental maxim, 'The mind is the slayer of the real', and its corollary, 'Slay thou the slayer'.

Throughout the zodiac, the mind has functioned as a bridge to reality. Once traversed, however, this bridge can be left behind. The Piscean appreciates the need for logic, just as a traveller is grateful for the bridge which spans a river, but he has no need to pick the bridge up and carry it along with him after it has served its purpose. He is now ready to ascend into the highlands of consciousness from which the light of the spirit may be more directly approached. He ceases to need intermediaries because he becomes the thing he seeks. Love was the means and love the goal; and now the two are one.

MERCURY BY HOUSE

Natal Mercury in 1st House

(Freda Edis)

Mercury in the first house displays a need for self-expression through a questioning and inquiring attitude to life. People with this combination gain a sense of identity by knowing how their own minds work. Sometimes they want it recognized that the intellectual way in which they perceive the world has some validity. They are curious, occasionally impulsively talkative, and can express themselves fluently using logic and reasoning to good effect. If aspects to Mercury support it, there can be an interest in languages. Thinking about the world and their part in it is of great importance to them, and they are likely to spend much of their time engaged in mind-orientated activities, needing to gather knowledge and communicate it to the world around them, particularly where Mercury conjuncts the Ascendant.

The sign on the Ascendant will colour the way the planet's functions are displayed. Mercury with Capricorn rising, for instance, may express itself through a steady, careful mind and cautious speech, while Mercury here with Sagittarius rising might mean an identity realized through impulsive thinking on a grand scale. Occasionally, tactless speech is an issue for these people. Close aspects to another planet will also influence the way a first house Mercury operates.

There is a myth concerning Hermes which has some bearing on the Mercury-in-first-house need to actualize ideas. When the rather belligerent Herakles was on a visit to Troezen, he stopped at the wayside because he was tired. As he sat to rest, he leaned his club against a statue of Hermes which had been erected by the side of a road. The club took root, put out leaves and grew into a tree. Herakles, it seems, needs to produce, rather than destroy, on this occasion. Even a weapon of war can be made productive if a Mars-inclined person stops for a while to take stock and allows a

fertile flow of ideas to develop beyond the present moment - a characteristic not often associated with Herakles. The tale is an indication that the Mercury principle and the Mars principle can be combined successfully.

Alternatively, people with this placement, especially if the planet is near the Ascendant and / or in hard aspect to other planets, need to ensure against overemphasizing an intellectual approach to life. On first acquaintance, other people may see them as lacking at some deep level the qualities of warmth and intuitive empathy needed to balance the inquiring mind - nobody in his or her right mind would have called Herakles deeply empathic, usually. But, through their life experiences, Mercury-in-first-house people may come to an intelligent understanding of how to work on the impulse to act first and think later, though the energy for communication will always be high.

(Stephanie Camilleri)

This location of Mercury makes a good counselor. It is an excellent position for a teacher, actor, lawyer, politician, or anyone in similar careers as it gives the power to speak well, both to groups and in conversation. If there are limiting aspects from Saturn, or if Mercury is in a Water sign, the ability to speak may be diminished, though the desire to communicate will be strong, and so may find an outlet through writing, singing, or film-making etc.. In any case, people with a first house Mercury are almost always extremely quick, apt and flexible, and retain their youthful energy and enthusiasm throughout life.

Often they feel themselves to be the spokesman for a group and will feel called upon to speak out in defense of someone or something. They are usually witty (particularly if Mercury is in Virgo, Aries or Gemini) and are able to use words to make others laugh. They are excellent teachers and, even if they don't teach as a profession, they will be useful throughout life instructing others, showing them how to do things.

They are able to put things into words much better than most people. Everything that they experience they frame in words and images, for themselves if not for others. If they can't put something into words or images it hardly exists for them. They are quick studies, able to pick up ideas rapidly from cursory reading or listening to others speak. They may become distracted by words or ideas, too caught up in them, if Mercury is in an Air or Earth sign. If it is in a Water and Fire sign, it is the thing itself they see, not the word for it, so this is a good position for an artist or poet who works more with images than with facts or concepts. Sometimes Mercury in a Water sign even causes a problem with words.

They are often athletic, or physically active, loving motion and the use of their bodies as it is the sport itself, the game and the action, that they crave, and not so much the victory as this position is not competitive of itself. They are willing to take the less glorious roles in games or other group activities if the performance of the group as a whole requires it, as being part of the group or team is what appeals to them, although if they or anyone else appears to be treated unfairly they will not hesitate to speak out.

They either love speed or are insensitive to it, and, if other factors are present, could have a car accident at some point due to their attraction to fast motion. They usually like the roller coaster and the faster, wilder rides at the amusement park. They usually love airplanes and flight, especially if Mercury is in a Fire or Air sign, and make good pilots.

If there are conjunctions or oppositions to Mercury from Saturn, Uranus or Pluto,

they may stammer or have a speech impediment, or possibly even brain damage. A retrograde Mercury may turn them towards writing, photography, art, or acting - anything where images or ideas can be constructed in private, because they may feel that the words they need to express themselves don't come easily enough in the spontaneous give and take of conversation.

If other chart factors are present that indicate long life, this position of Mercury strengthens them, giving a sort of perpetual youth and a strong ability to rejuvenate. However, if sudden death factors are present, this position will intensify those as well. In high political office, it increases the potential for assassination. In some cases there is the possibility of an early death due in part to a distaste for aging.

Those with Mercury in the first house always relate well to young people, and will have young friends even when they are old.

(Bill Herbst)

Self-expression: Mercury in the 1st reveals that your spontaneous personality is nervous, mental, quick to perceive, and just as quick to change direction. There is a certain 'short-term' orientation; the mental focus is immediate, but your attention span is short. you love solving riddles and are fascinated by any activity that propels your mind into immediate action. As with every Mercury interpretation, this can be altered significantly by its sign position and interplanetary aspects, and even more importantly by the placement and condition of the Sun. It is also affected strongly by environmental factors like education, family, and sociocultural background. Those considerations aside, however, the basic indication of the house placement alone suggests that you have a loquacious, verbal type of persona, one which is quick and clever.

Natural persona: Mercury indicates a mental face, with an emphasis on rationality and cognition. How talkative you are depends on other considerations, but your persona certainly indicates an interest in communication. The mask is nervous and quick, as likely to question others as to reveal anything about the self.

Your name-tag says, 'I am curious, interested in your mind, mobile in my focus, and objective in my perceptions'.

Self-awareness: Activation of the thinking, perceiving, and communicating functions of the nervous system promotes awareness of your true inner self. The more you think, the more you awaken to yourself. It's not at all necessary that your thoughts be about yourself; in fact, the more they remain objective perceptions of the world around you, the more self-awareness results. Curiosity about the world and everything in it wakes you up.

Boundaries: The bridge between inner and outer realities is associative, rational, and nervous, with mental interplay providing the connection. Expression without thought or communication without content can send the two environments spinning around one another in a meaningless whirlwind, while too much nervous energy or strictly impersonal calculation alienates them, destroying the linkage. The challenge is to analyze and communicate with both environments without falling into cold, mechanical rationality.

Vitality: Clear perceptions and logical thinking provide support for your essential vitality, but vulnerability to nervous disorders may exist. Observe yourself; learn as much as you can about the physical and mental disciplines that keep you vital.

(Robert Pelletier)

You express your opinions so precisely that no-one questions your meaning, and you eagerly accept a challenge from anyone who disagrees with you. Your respect for education and your insatiable curiosity give you an advantage over less-informed competitors. When you take time to examine all the details, you solve problems quickly and accurately. You try to understand others' motivations, and you learn a great deal from them. You learn from your experiences, and you enjoy travelling to promote your ambitions. Getting away from the daily routine renews your mental and physical energy. Your great creative potential only needs to be developed so that you can establish your credentials in your field. You know what you can and cannot do, and you strive to maintain the highest ideals. You put a lot of thought into your endeavors, and you have faith that you will succeed. You may seem lucky, but actually you are inspired and imaginative in using your creative gifts. Your partner should understand how important it is that you achieve your goals. You feel that your mutual interests will be better served if each of you compromises to some extent.

You try to live each day as fully as possible, for you know that your future security and independence depend on it. You know how to put your ideas to work for your later years, when you want to be free from obligation. You take advantage of opportunities provided by your friends, and you don't forget favors you have received in the past. You realize that your future is in your own hands, and you won't really feel fulfilled until you see tangible evidence of your success.

It is important that the public consider your ideas substantial. You depend on associates and competitors to show you where your skills need refining. Although it isn't easy for you to admit you are wrong, you concede when your career goals are at stake. You are willing to learn, which will help you grow. You show good judgement in relationships, and you don't make binding commitments lightly. You learn something from everyone you contact. Your early environment taught you the importance of establishing roots. Having to stand on your own in spite of frustrating early conflicts stimulated your creative potential. Because of this conditioning, you find it painful to be confined by a daily routine that restricts your freedom. But you are willing to work to gain the professional status that will give you that freedom.

You may not realize that your greatest liability is neglecting the people on whom you depend for success. When you understand what the public expects, you will accept the responsibility of serving them. This will be your greatest contribution to your own future. You have much insight into what's wrong with people, and they look to you for understanding. This insight is useful in your career because you understand your competitors' weaknesses.

Failing to implement your creative talent and exploit your ideas would put you at a disadvantage. You must put your faculty for communication to work if you want to benefit from it. Underestimating your worth would be a tragic waste of inspired imagination. You can accomplish much if you respond to the needs of the society and let your creative talent become its asset.

(Howard Sasportas)

Those with this placement become conscious of themselves and life in general by being curious and asking questions. They are meant to be spokespeople - distributors of ideas and information or channels through which one discipline is linked to another. They are usually highly analytical, both of themselves and of others.

Mercury is a mimic and will take on the qualities of the sign it is in and any planet it

closely aspects. Therefore, these need to be carefully examined. For instance, Mercury in a Fire sign or conjunct Saturn is more prone to cautious assessment prior to committing the self to activity. Things have to 'sit' right within them before they can act. Mercury in a Water sign or aspected to Neptune will evaluate the perceptions through the feelings and emotions, unlike Mercury in Air or aspected to Uranus, which will speak and act from a more purely objective stance, having (often in a flash) computed the bigger picture.

Those with Mercury in the 1st imbue the world with significance on the basis of what they think about it. If they don't like what they see, rather than blaming the world 'out there', they should try changing their own attitudes and then take another look at what they find.

Those with Mercury in the 1st often maintain a youthful appearance throughout life. Sometimes there are frequent changes of environment in the early years, as if they are forced from a young age to view life from different angles.

Natal Mercury in 2nd House

(Freda Edis)

In the second house, Mercury indicates a mind concerned with securing personal resources which may be both material and psychological. The possession of clear values and a personal sense of worth are important to people with this placement. At heart, they often feel the need for the security which comes with an intelligent recognition of a sense of values and self-esteem, though they might not always be aware of it. Often the trait takes the form of a pride of ownership. Attachment to physical objects, people or inner desires and ways of thinking is characteristic. So people with this placement may need to learn very consciously how to appreciate their worth without being either possessive or smothering to excess. They are capable of reaching a realization of the worth of their inner system of values and the way in which they use these in their dealings with others. At the same time, it is possible for them to combine this inner awareness with a desire for material and intellectual security and resources. Coming to a satisfactory appreciation of their possessions without feeling that they themselves are owned by them, or by their own attitudes of mind, may help them considerably.

Choice-making between things of value might be a function which would benefit people with Mercury in the second house. Where there is little discrimination between values, it is often because people are afraid to let go of what they once possessed, even when it becomes redundant. Fear of the consequences of making the wrong choice is a factor involved here. But, sometimes in life, this cannot be avoided, and people with a second-house Mercury may find it a painful process. Hermes was party to this dilemma when he gave the golden apple to Paris, asking him to judge who was the most beautiful goddess, Hera, Aphrodite, or Athene. Paris attempted to wriggle out of making the choice; but Hermes, on orders from Zeus, would not let him. Possession and repossession was a constant theme in the Trojan War, whether it was of Helen herself, or the city of Troy. Holding on to redundant values for too long can mean that the psyche rigidifies and can develop no further; so keeping a constant eye on the meaning of values may be one of the tasks facing people with Mercury in the first house.

Aphrodite was skilled in drawing her many lovers to her, Hermes among them. So, too, people with Mercury placed in the second house may be skilled, or not, in

drawing to themselves the resources they need, depending on the strength and type of the aspects made with other planets in the chart and how aware they are of the qualities of the placement. The sign on the second house cusp and the planet ruling it will affect Mercury's placement, too.

(Stephanie Camilleri)

People with Mercury in the second house usually desire to be self-supporting early in life. They are always out to make a buck, and not always honorably or legally (the strength and elevation of Jupiter and Saturn will testify to this). They may live by their wits or by writing, speaking, acting, or teaching.

This location of Mercury contributes to sensuality, and gives a strong interest in sex and a tendency to be attracted to more than one person at a time. At some time during the life, there may be a powerful attraction to a much younger person. There is also a tendency to be attracted to socially inappropriate partners; in this, their desire to know and learn from what is opposite to the self is taking a sexual form.

There is apt to be a stubbornness with this position; once the mind is made up, it is hard to change it. This is even more likely if Mercury is in a fixed sign. There is a tendency (especially for those with the Sun in Virgo or Gemini) for ideas to crystallize, thus building a structure too rigid for a comfortable, free-flowing mental life. If this happens, events may occur at some point during the life that will be very painful, as these crystallized ideas or attitudes are forcibly dissolved and restructured.

With Mercury in the second house, the mind tends to work fairly slowly, one step at a time, and seeks to create a totally realistic, all-embracing, and dependable world view. Until this world view is complete (which is never), these people do not feel secure in venturing their opinions. They develop a philosophical nature: curious, eager to acquire facts, yet at the same time very slow to accept data that does not conform to their already crystallized ideas, and inclined to be less and less open as time goes by. They like to keep their ideas to themselves, and don't like to argue them out with others. They would sooner write a book or an article in which they can outline their entire view on a subject than discuss or argue it point by point with someone else. A free-flowing exchange of serious topics is uncomfortable for them, and they will usually shrug it off and back out rather than hash over a concept.

They tend to be quiet with strangers or in a group, though far from quiet at home or with intimates. They usually have good memories for facts, names, dates, places, and so on, which become etched in their minds, even if such details are not particularly useful.

(Bill Herbst)

Self-worth: Mercury in the 2nd house reveals that self-judgements are based on mentality. There is a certain self-absorption in the mind, as the issues of personal 'goodness or badness' are debated within. The challenge is to make judgements about yourself from the sound and rational base of accurate and objective self-perception. Clear knowledge of yourself, however painful it may occasionally seem, can only help you.

Possession: You organize ownership rationally; and the very nature of your possessions reflects a mental orientation. Tools of communication or objects that can be used to further general relatedness are attractive possessions. As with the Moon, there is constant movement within the realm of ownership, but the reasons here are

tied not to feelings, but instead to curiosity. Possessions, especially new ones, alleviate boredom. When an object has lost its mental fascination for you, when it no longer stimulates the mind, it has no further value. The challenge is to use possession to fulfill the constant demands of your nervous system for fresh stimulation.

Money: Your thoughts and communication often center around the issue of monetary resources, in terms of both acquisition and use. As with the Moon, fortunes may fluctuate, but the emphasis here is entirely mental rather than emotional. Money is appropriately used to provide mental stimulus, to further your education, or to promote communication, the sense of connectedness to a network of ideas. The challenge is to see the acquisition and use of money as an endless game, a stimulant toward developing rational faculties of clear perception and organization.

Self-exertion: The main method of exerting effort is mental rather than physical, working through the nervous system. You prefer to analyze tasks rather than use muscle power to accomplish them. Thinking and communicating are the most natural work orientation, although physical movement is necessary to provide a sense of satisfaction. Boring repetition deadens your motivation. The challenge is to divide any job into a series of smaller tasks, turning your attention from one to the other in sequence until the job is finished, thus keeping interest high and turning work into play.

Sensuality: There is a quickening of sensation, an increased sensitivity in the nervous system to the pleasures of touch. You have much curiosity about physical sensation, a basic interest in figuring out the correlations between bodily experience and emotional reaction. This is not an inordinately sensual placement, for Mercury is essentially a neutral planet, indicating a more detached interest than any definite feelings of liking or disliking. Conversely, Mercury's placement in the 2nd shows that thinking and communicating are almost sensory experiences; physical pleasure is experienced from the stroking of mental stimulus. The challenge is to see mentality as an expression of personal enjoyment, to understand that the brain is the most sensual organ of the body.

(Robert Pelletier)

The emphasis you place on both human and material values enables you to derive much satisfaction from your endeavors. You understand the necessity of using your deductive ability to get the most from your resources, and you are never at a loss to apply your talents gainfully. Eager to demonstrate your creative talent, you attract the attention of your superiors, who will give you opportunities to establish a place for yourself in your career. You also attract favorable notice from the public, for you serve their interests well. Your concern for security leads you to improve your skills to augment your earning ability. Your goals are reasonably well-defined, and you waste little time getting your career plans under way to achieve your aims as soon as possible. You are willing to invest time and energy in getting the education you need.

Appreciative of the good influence of your parents in your early years, you try to live up to their expectations and be a credit to them. You were taught to build a solid foundation for your life in order to be independent in your later years and gain the security you feel you need. You have a wealth of ideas that you can promote in order to achieve that objective. You would find it painful to depend on others for anything. Occasionally you should break out of your job routine and cultivate an interest in activities that are totally removed from it. Focus more attention on developing your creative imagination, and indulge yourself in purely enjoyable activities. Let your hair down now and then, and learn to relax.

Competing with others stimulates you to use all your resources. You rarely come out on the short end of a challenging situation, because you use a 'nuts and bolts' logic to disarm your opponent. Thus you win people's trust and patronage, and they allow you to handle their affairs. You know how to exploit your creative abilities to win public confidence. Because you work so diligently in using your skills, you do ask that your efforts be appreciated. You want your partner's admiration for your achievements; and you hope your children will live up to your expectations for them. You want them to take advantage of the opportunities you've given them to make a life for themselves, and you would be disappointed if they let you down.

Not only do you want to achieve financial independence; you also want the public to think of you as a person with solid human values. You strive to provide services that will satisfy the most demanding individual, and you expect to be well paid for your efforts. You continue to improve your skills, knowing that this will assure you of a steady income. Though you may think twice before spending money for schooling, you realize that you must stay informed to meet the challenge of your competitors, so you continue to educate yourself at all times, regardless of your formal training. You accept the daily trials of the real world, knowing that you can solve any problems that come your way and earn a decent income at the same time.

You are unyielding in your views, and tend to turn a deaf ear to others' suggestions, especially when they criticize your activities. You should broaden your interests by taking up subjects that are totally removed from your profession or daily routine. The worst thing you can do is to remain ignorant of other people's ideas or to become detached from them by refusing to communicate.

(Howard Sasportas)

If well-aspected, Mercury in the 2nd can be a skilful manipulator of money or finance, especially adept at arbitration and making deals with others. Money can be earned through such professions as selling, writing, lecturing, teaching, secretarial work, the transport industry, etc.. They may be concerned with the movement or distribution of goods, with devising new techniques of production, or with ways of improving the quality of existing products. Innate values to be developed include inventiveness, dexterity, flexibility and a talent for using words.

On a broader level, there is a curiosity and urge to understand the nature of the physical world. A small pebble found on the beach or the intricacies of a hair follicle found on the body are endlessly fascinating for a minute or two. A sense of security is found through knowledge and learning how something works. However, unless Mercury is in a Fire sign, it may take some time before experience is fully transmuted into understanding when placed in the earthy second house.

Natal Mercury in 3rd House

(Freda Edis)

When Mercury is in the third house, people are likely to spend much of their time involved with learning experiences of various kinds. These will not necessarily be the kinds of learning which come with a more mature consideration, but can occur where it is necessary to make an initial and energetic push at the beginning of a learning process. People with the placement may be actively involved with their environment and immediate families, particularly with siblings who stimulate their ever-questing minds.

We saw this with Hermes. His first act which involved other people, on the day he

was born, was to steal his half-brother's cattle; his next was to try to avoid Apollo's anger. Whatever the results, Hermes was a good, if devious, imitator at this stage. The act also set up some interaction, even if it was of a negative kind, with his older sibling. It only later proved to be a benedictory one after Hermes had been introduced to the healing arts which Apollo and Asklepios favoured. So these short-term excursions which Hermes made earlier in life laid some of the groundwork for his later development. To an extent, mistakes and deviousness are part of the early learning process; it is only where they persist as a life-long pattern which takes no account of other people's needs that there are problems.

So people with this placement tend to engage easily with short-term activities and journeys. They are at home with initiating communications and new learning situations. They are often seen as rational and curious, but restless and easily bored, unless other chart factors mitigate the effects of Mercury here. Again, Hermes' myths help. We see from the tales how versatile and inventive he was; alphabets, musical instruments, cattle-rustling, playing the merchant or the thief were all grist to his mill. He seemed to have few fears about initiating any activity which involved his mind rather than his feelings. The danger is that some third house Mercury people may occasionally feel themselves to be eternal students and forever on the move mentally; at times, it can pall.

The cusp sign of Mercury in the third house may show, for example, something of the way people with this placement initially approach their surroundings and the beginnings of relationships with others. Mercury in Pisces people have minds which can easily pick up on the moods and attitudes of the people around them; those with Mercury in Leo may have much self-confidence in their own mental abilities and be strong-willed enough to express these well. Planetary aspects, too, might help to develop or prevent certain characteristics of mind when this placement is prominent.

People with this placement are able to assimilate concepts and ideas with ease, but may find difficulty with concentration, and so need to guard against scattering their mental energies. Hermes's many talents can operate against him if he is not careful. So people with Mercury here may benefit from making sure of strong and viable connections between their many activities and areas of interest by choosing carefully the priorities they wish to develop further. Deepening their interests and staying with the process is helpful to the mercurially minded as they move on their way to self-knowledge; hopping from one area of activity to another without making connections between them may prove frustrating in the end. Even Mercury submits himself to the alchemical transformation when he can take his old skills no further.

(Stephanie Camilleri)

This is an excellent position for a writer or communicator of any kind: filmmaker, photographer, graphic artist, secretary, lecturer, teacher. The mind is open and flexible, and keeps a youthful and eager approach to life, or at least to those areas of life on which it has decided to concentrate. There is a great interest in animals, children, and nature. There is an ability to move easily from one idea or field to another. With Mercury in Fire or Air, they are inclined to move too rapidly or easily, picking up nothing as they go, remembering little, and leaving no trace of having been there.

They usually have great stories about people they have known and places they have been. There is a great incoming stream of information about the world; but without aspects of crystallization these will form no philosophy or concepts, and will be put to no other use than amusing conversation with whoever is around. There is a great feel for the true sound and tempo of everyday life, that is good for playwrights, novelists,

comedians, etc.. It makes a person capable of being a very witty and entertaining companion. They usually have a wide circle of amusing acquaintances, although deep friendships must be shown by other factors.

They will gladly take the other side of the argument for the sheer pleasure of it and to keep up the excitement of a conversation, though they actually feel committed to no one position, which can be aggravating to those around them, who may feel that there is simply nothing there. They are better at providing a forum for others, recording others, helping others to bring forth their ideas, than they are at presenting their own, for often they have no real viewpoint, since they see so clearly all sides of a question.

They are resentful of pigeonholes and labels, love freedom, and hate to be tied down, especially mentally (by a boring job or relationship). They will struggle until they find a spot where they can use their mentality as they please.

(Bill Herbst)

Outreach: Mercury in the 3rd reveals an overriding interest in the experience of environmental stimulus. You often dart from issue to issue, fueled by a nervous system that is almost insatiable in its drive to discover and taste new levels of the environment. Activity here is both mental and physical, with the emphasis on investigation and perception. You're usually on the go, seeking new and better sources of interest. While every house placement of Mercury is active, linking it with the 3rd creates a situation where boredom is anathema and downright deadening to the spirit. The challenge is to develop the quickness and facility of your mind through a perpetually active life.

Concrete mind: Your mentality is agile, quick, and very well-suited to the manipulation of data. You can be computerlike in your approach to thought, juggling huge amounts of information in a perpetually ongoing search-and-sort operation aimed at the creation of new insights. Pure rationality is emphasized, and must be maintained for clarity. The pitfall is loss of overall meaning in the endless pursuit of new data; and the challenge is to experience an ever-changing kaleidoscope of information relationships.

Curiosity: As you are an insatiably curious person, the process of mentality is more pronounced than the pursuit of any particular information. Knowing is not an end per se, but rather a continuing means of stroking your nervous system. The pitfall surrounds not focusing long enough to ever really learn anything, creating a perpetual state of nervous aggravation, an 'itch you can't scratch'. The challenge is to enjoy the desire to know rather than the knowing itself.

Basic education: The child with this placement often has a natural facility for learning. Communication skills can develop earlier than usual, although interest must be kept high through a diversity of stimuli. All the skills of understanding can be successfully emphasized. Later in life, there are likely to be wide-reaching interests - 'jack of all trades, master of none' - for there is at least a little to be learned in everything.

Communication: Mercury here is usually presumed to indicate an individual who is very talkative, even verbose. This may or may not be the case, for with Mercury, as with all other planets, the sign position and interplanetary associations can substantially modify the symbolic patterns. What is safe to say, however, is that you are usually processing information. When it is expressed, what is most important is the information itself, not stylistic concerns such as tone of voice. In communicating

with you, others should listen carefully to the words themselves. They hold the key.

(Robert Pelletier)

You are basically a person of ideas, which you express fluently and effortlessly. Life is fascinating to you, and you never tire of pursuing knowledge about every possible subject. Your friends support you in your endeavors, knowing that you will not give up. They like you because you never threaten them with your superior knowledge, allowing their egos to remain intact. You bring sparkle and wit to any gathering, though you are serious when necessary. You aren't unduly preoccupied with the future, for you never doubt that you will achieve your goals. You may accept help on occasion; and you are eager to reciprocate when someone needs assistance. You have no trouble in dealing with the public, and you always seem to have the appropriate answers to people's problems. You will find it easy to attract a suitable mate to share your life, insisting only that your partner be as eager as you are to grow and develop. Combining your talents will benefit both of you. Your greatest assets are your insatiable thirst for knowledge and your ability to dramatize your ideas.

You usually set the stage for an encounter by first organizing your ideas. People have no difficulty following your train of thought, for you make proposals with ingenious sensitivity. Your logic almost always impresses your listeners. In your personal life, you enjoy a variety of loves; but the idea of settling down with one individual is at first discomfiting. Your creative ideas may be your 'children'. If you have a real family, however, you hope that they agree with your ambitions with them; but if they don't, be prepared to concede to their desires.

It is especially important to get a formal education; the people whom you contact professionally will respect the polish that an education provides. You can't afford the embarrassment of losing to a competitor simply because you are uninformed. While it is fun to ask questions, it's the answers that count; besides, it bothers you not to know something. You might benefit by withdrawing from society now and then, to allow your imagination and inspiration to work. Seek a career that will continually make demands on you, and avoid routine endeavors that will crush your creative spirit. With persistent effort, you will realize your ambitions.

You might be distracted by indulging in sexual fantasies or dreams of a great career. When the time comes to demonstrate your skills and act out your role in the marketplace, your strong passionate nature will help you succeed. Your passion will be translated into a strong desire to win the coveted prize, whether it's a contract, a sale or a person that arouses you. Stay within safe limits on the job. Extending yourself can take a lot out of you, mentally and physically.

You know how to make the best of a situation and how to capitalize on all your resources in order to increase your earnings. You should seek advice to help you get your resources organized, or you will waste precious time in disorder. This could be a residual effect of your early conditioning when you were expected to share your parents' views and opinions. If your views are different, you may not be able to make the right decisions for yourself except by trial and error. This is why you should have help until you learn to fully understand and appreciate the value of your own ideas. Eventually you can learn to establish an orderly pattern in your thinking.

(Howard Sasportas)

Mercury is strongly placed in the 3rd, since in the natural zodiac this is one of its own houses. The sign placement and aspects to it will describe the way a person thinks, learns and digests experience. a 3rd house Mercury in Fire or Air or in aspect to

Mars, Jupiter or Uranus indicates a more extroverted and speedy mind than when Mercury is placed in an Earth sign or in aspect to Saturn, which slows down and deepens the thought processes. Mercury in Water or aspected to the Moon or Neptune leans more through osmosis, absorption and aesthetic and emotional appreciation than in an analytic, step-by-step mode. A 'good mind' is normally defined as one that can think rationally and logically; but an examination of the 3rd house may reveal other kinds of minds - just as good - which operate differently from the standards of traditional educational systems. Learning difficulties may be shown by aspects of Uranus, Neptune, or Pluto to a 3rd house Mercury, and often stem from the fact that this person's mind is not the type that is favoured by conventional teaching techniques.

In general, however, Mercury in the 3rd, unless adversely aspected, reveals a lively, witty, observant intellect, adept at communication and repartee, with good attention to detail. Those with this placement are unusually clever at selecting those facts which justify or support the case they wish to present. Those with Mercury in the 3rd normally have at least a little something to say about everything. If you don't think so, ask them and wait a minute.

The nature of the relationship with siblings and neighbours will be shown by the aspects to Mercury in this house. Mercury in difficult aspect to Saturn or Pluto, for instance, could indicate some deep-rooted problems stemming from sibling issues. These are worth examining, as they often illuminate patterns which may still be operating much later in life. I drew up the chart of a woman with Mercury conjunct Pluto in the 3rd house whose younger brother died when she was only six years old. At the age of twenty-eight, she was still walking around believing that something she had said or done was the cause of his death.

Natal Mercury in 4th House

(Freda Edis)

A fourth house Mercury indicates people whose mental activities may include an awareness of their roots and the foundations on which they build their lives. In many cases, this is reflected in perhaps unconscious, predisposed emotions and attitudes to the home and family. At a day old, Hermes was very aware that he and his mother were living in a cave on Mount Kyllene, far from Hera's wrath on Olympus, but also isolated from the other Olympians. For people with this placement, sometimes what is deeply buried within needs to be brought to the surface, but it may take them years to do so, especially where Maia is more active than Hermes in the placement. Though Maia herself expressed no desire to go to 'Olympus', it was among Hermes's first thoughts. But if Mercury makes his presence felt early, then people with this placement could experience changeable home conditions while they are children. They may also project many of their intellectual faculties on to their fathers or the less dominant parent. Often there is a desire to make the home a safe hive of intellectual activity or a place of work. These tendencies are likely to be enhanced where Mercury is in strong aspect to, or conjuncts, the IC; but, equally, as life progresses, there may be an increasing urge to uncover what is essential to the self, risking some of the safety that the environment provides.

Most of us like at least one place where we feel safe; but a fourth house Mercury needs intellectual stimulation there, too. If it isn't provided, then the person with Mercury here may decide to look elsewhere, as Hermes did when he left Mount Kyllene to reside with his father on Olympus - when he wasn't travelling, that is. There is more than a suggestion in the myths that Hermes, unconsciously, took the action he did over Apollo's cattle in order to obtain some of the variety and wider

experience of life he needed, having to move away from home in order to do so. Mercury in the fourth house can sometimes feel closed in, even in a safe environment.

Cusp signs will affect the strength of such feelings. Mercury with Gemini here may increase the intellectual restlessness to be found in the home, but it can also give the curiosity necessary to discover if the father, for instance, is really as critical as the person seemed to experience. On the other hand, Mercury with Aries on the cusp of the fourth could give an overforceful and impatient expression in any matters which might lead to uncovering the origins of behaviour.

Aspects, too, particularly where the IC is also involved, will influence this placement.

(Stephanie Camilleri)

With this position of Mercury, there is a great love of motion and travel, a great desire to see faraway places and to know exotic people, partly as a means for acquiring perspective on their own roots and early environment.

There may be a severing of ties with roots and early environment; and they may ultimately end up far from where they started. There may be quite a bit of travelling during childhood and the school years, with the family relocating a number of times.

Later in life, they may move away from their early roots and environment in a cultural as well as geographical sense, sometimes adopting a less civilized, less highly-educated, more basic lifestyle, or at least adopting its point of view, and working toward an understanding of such a lifestyle through writing, speaking, and so forth.

This position of Mercury is a partial testimony to a strong current of inner growth and self-development throughout life that takes them far from where they started in every sense, not just physically. There is often the lifelong styling of the self after an ideal and, consequently, a lifelong development along those lines, although it takes other factors to show what sort of an ideal - not always a noble one.

These people have a very private mental life, and are highly individualistic in their way of thinking. They may have a rather lonely mental life and feel somewhat isolated, particularly in youth. The truth is that they are not afraid, as are most people, to think differently, and willingly forge ahead along new lines of thought, taking each new idea and testing it, rejecting what doesn't fit their current system, yet basically maintaining a respect for all systems of thought. There is a lifelong search for a basic reality that can unite all disparate and seemingly opposing systems of thought, a search for what is basic to all of them. Ideas are loved, not for their intellectual patness, but for realism and practicality. There is usually an interest in history, anthropology, archeology, as evidence of what has been, upon which their own personal world view can be based. The mind here is a digger, ever working down through facts toward fundamental truths rather than flying high after dreams and beautiful but insubstantial fantasies.

Those with a fourth house Mercury have an innate feeling for 'the people', although they themselves generally remain aloof from large groups. They feel their own selfhood intensely, and it is hard for them to reach past it and touch the lives of others. It is often the sign of one who walks alone. They may become leaders if others urge leadership upon them, or they may shun it, but they will never be followers.

(Bill Herbst)

Microcosm: With Mercury in the 4th, thoughts, ideas, and all forms of communication are linked with the most personal levels of self. You spend much time thinking about yourself and those you love. What is known is often kept secret; and though it's certainly natural that you be conservative with your information, this can occasionally work to your disadvantage. The challenge is to realize that your thoughts are private rather than secret, and to learn to share these private thoughts selectively, joyfully, with those you most trust.

Personal security: Home is correctly a place of mental stimulation, a movable feast of ideas and physical change. Mobility is essential, for boredom and stultification lie in wait, ready to pounce whenever stagnation overcomes vibrancy, so you may want to think of yourself as having a 'mobile home'. Mercury is naturally subordinate to the Sun; and the actual tendency toward frequent relocation is subject to the Sun's condition, as well as that of the chart in general. However, no matter what is revealed by the rest of the chart, ties of communication are always important: conversational, by telephone, or written. These are the tools with which you build a sense of permanent security. The pitfall lies in uprooting yourself or being uprooted too often; and the challenge is to keep extending your security, moving and changing with the times as growth requires.

Emotional imprints: Your imprints were basically derived from observed behavior and mental instructions. What you saw and heard were powerful motivators of future behavior, for imitative modelling is the rule here: 'monkey see, monkey do'. Your intelligence was emphasized, either positively or negatively. In and of itself, however, Mercury is the least important of the ten planets in revealing the imprint structure.

'Inner-link' parent: Though Mercury's placement acts mainly as a modifier of the Sun's more primary impact, its placement here indicates that your mother had greater than ordinary importance as a teacher. Her imprint effect involved structuring your nervous system and mental machinery during infancy. Especially with the Sun in the 3rd or 5th houses, she may have vacillated a great deal about her maternal role, possibly preferring the cool dryness of mental contact rather than the warm wetness of the emotional.

Private intuition: Rational processes are the natural key to private intuitions. You must figure things out with this placement; and much time is spent 'in conversation' with the inner self, getting a handle on situations, problems, or choices. Answers may not be straightforward, but questions abound in an ongoing Socratic dialogue: You ask questions, and your guides respond by posing other questions. Even when they give you direct answers, it will stimulate you to further questions. They are more than willing to engage you in conversation; but be sure to keep the channels open, since they depend on your call. Reach out and touch someone, even if the being in question does not have a body.

(Robert Pelletier)

Being so close to the other members of your family makes it difficult for you to think for yourself. You are inclined to pattern your habits and attitudes on your parent's line of reasoning. Because of this emotional conditioning, you tend to keep your opinions to yourself unless they concur with your parents' ideas, for you feel obligated to them. Eventually you will have to take responsibility for using your mental abilities for your own interests, even if it causes you some temporary anxiety. Your keen imagination will serve you well if you are daring enough to exploit it openly. A formal education will help you understand how capable you can be; and from this will come the self-confidence you need for success. Along with your

intellectual abilities, you have great sensitivity to other people's feelings, and you try to do what is best for them.

You may often change your course of action in working toward your goals, which is all right if you keep your primary objective in focus. The need to establish security for your later years will help you maintain a plan of action and see it realized. It would be ideal if the same force would stimulate you to stand on your own. Money is very important to you; and few people can match your talent for acquiring it. You know that money is necessary to achieving your goals. You hate to depend on anyone for support, so you try to capitalize on your own ideas to make that unnecessary.

Your highest priority should be to accept the challenges of competition. There is no easy way to gain public recognition for your accomplishments except through self-discipline and determination to succeed. That will improve your self-image and assure your growth in your position. Your partner may be more helpful than you realize; and you should pay attention to any suggestions he or she offers, because you will probably benefit from them. Even your competitors can serve your purposes if you learn how they succeed. But your mate is your best source of inspiration; and you both will be rewarded by living up to each other's expectations. You need a partner who understands you and who will support you when your self-confidence sags.

Your best motivation comes from people who need your expertise to solve their problems. You owe them your continued understanding and professional skill as long as they need it, for it is through this kind of interchange that you will attain your future goals. Be wary of friends who make excessive demands unless they give you some consideration for your efforts. At the same time, you must know that only hard work will bring you the security you need and are so preoccupied with.

Take advantage of your excellent mind, and develop it into your greatest asset. You are enormously resourceful in capitalizing on your ideas; but you must avoid people who try to distract you from your plans. The knowledge you've gained will help you secure a career position. The worst trap you could fall into is to allow family considerations to inhibit your development. With a little imagination, you can accomplish a great deal by exploiting your creative potentials. You will have to sell yourself and your ideas; but don't underestimate their quality. It is unlikely that you would exaggerate your abilities, anyway.

(Howard Sasportas)

Mercury in the 4th sometimes indicates an intellectual or academic home background, where the emphasis was on being sensible and rational, perhaps at the expense of feelings, warmth and physical closeness. Intelligence may be inherited through the family line. If the 4th house is taken to mean the father, then in some way he would have carried the Mercury projection: he might have been experienced as expressive, articulate, critical or possibly tricky and elusive, someone who 'comes and goes'. Mental attitudes could be mixed up with those of the father. There may even be more than one father - the actual father and a stepfather or another person who fills the role of a father-figure.

Early changes of residence may bring to the surface underlying qualities of flexibility and adaptability. Some with this placement might prefer a nomadic lifestyle. If Mercury is difficultly aspected in the 4th, there could be more than the usual amount of bickering, arguments and back-biting within the early home or later home environments. Mental and educational activities could be carried on in the home. Even well into the second half of life, the person would benefit from further learning or studying.

Natal Mercury in 5th House

(Freda Edis)

In the fifth house, Mercury can lead to the development of a mind interested in open, perhaps dramatic and creative forms of expression, particularly where there is a capacity for literary pursuits or activities of skill and strategy. There is often an interest in children or in the abilities of the young for people with this placement. Recreational activities are also seen as creative, and so is the possibility of romance. These people may be fast and precise thinkers in any artistic, literary or recreational endeavours they undertake. The appollonian qualities of a bright vitality are added to the intellectual abilities of Mercury when the two gods meet in myth. The exchange between them is, by turn, angry, witty, conciliatory, creative and interesting.

Aspects to Mercury in this house may influence the ability to think flexibly and creatively. Signs on the cusp of the fifth, too, can also affect the way Mercury works here. Mercury with Taurus may slow down the mind's ability to make creative connections quickly, but could enhance the capacity to produce something worthwhile in tangible form. Mercury with Aquarius would indicate an intuitive, original mind which might need to direct its creativity towards some humanitarian goal.

People with this placement are most often driven to produce at the creative level, as Hermes was when he made the lyre from a tortoise's shell. The difficulty is that people who are as inventive may find that they are engaging in separate activities which seem to have little connection between them; perhaps there is also an overemphasis in one area to the detriment of others. The interconnectedness of fifth house activities is important for these people because it enhances their mental perceptions. They easily identify with a need for continual and enthusiastic creation and recognition.

The myth of Amphion shows something of the fifth house attributes of creativity. He had connections with both Hermes and Apollon. Hermes had given him a lyre because he was devoted to the god's worship; but Amphion was often teased for playing it by Zethus, his brother, because it distracted him from work. But after the brothers had captured Thebes and dethroned the king, Amphion built the lower city by playing his lyre. The power of the sound shifted the stones into place, one on top of the other, so that the city was built in record time. Faith in the good gift bestowed by the god meant that Amphion was in a good position to profit from his creativity, provided that the gods were continually honoured.

(Stephanie Camilleri)

This position of Mercury is a powerful testimony to creativity. These are sturdy souls. They will never be downed by circumstances alone. In fact, they are often stimulated by difficulties to rise above them in a creative fashion, so they may actually seek trouble in some way so that this faculty will find expression, to the despair of less adventurous friends and relatives.

This Mercury adds flair to the style and charisma to the personality. They rarely look to others for answers. They have a deep belief in the creative powers of the self, and are only too eager to use them. They must develop some area where this boldly innovative drive can be put to use, or they will run headlong into difficulties with more conservative types. This is a very good position for artists, writers, lecturers,

entertainers, etc.. They do not work well in a career in harness with others, unless there is another area of life where there is total working freedom.

Usually attractive physically, they may have a number of romances and affairs, though this energy is often translated into artistic efforts. If Mercury is near the sixth house cusp, there is also a tremendous capacity for hard work.

These people make excellent teachers. If they do not teach as a career - and bureaucratic constraints unfortunately often cause these naturally gifted teachers to flee the profession - they will somehow manage to arrange their lives so that they can do some teaching along the way. Children and young people are very important to them. If Mercury is under pressure from Mars, Saturn, or Uranus, parenthood may be denied, which will bring grief because they will be greatly desired. In this case, they will usually settle for adoption, or helping children or young people in some other way. They are usually attractive to children and younger people all their lives.

They are inclined to take chances and risks, drive fast, and race cars or horses, or at least admire those who do. They are romantics all their lives, scorning as dull the everyday routines that most people cling to.

(Bill Herbst)

Conscious persona: Mercury in the 5th house reveals you to be a performer of the mind, someone capable of mental pyrotechnics or verbal gymnastics. You imagine every communication to be delivered to an audience, as in a speech or press conference; and you have a heightened awareness that words are the most creative part of your act. The pitfalls are mental vanity and pedantic overkill, while the challenge is to develop a charismatic and conscious sense of mind and its presentation.

Romance, giving love: Where love is concerned, you are a poet, a magician of words. Courtship exists between the minds; and what is said is of much greater importance than what is done. There is acceleration in the urgency of loving, as the nervous system galvanizes instantly to the clarion call of romance. On levels other than mental, however, love is cooled, and that is a consistent pitfall. Stimulus and imagery are the keys here; flirtation in the mind becomes an art. The challenge, of course, is to reach deeply into the thoughts of your beloved, penetrating both your thoughts about her and her thoughts about everything. To win the heart, you must fascinate the mind.

Sexual performance: The act of making love is something you think about - before, during, and after. Technique is critical; and your mind works overtime to develop scenarios for successful sexual performance. Communication is as important as touch, often more so, because for you, making love is like 'dancing in the mind'. There is usually a quicksilver attitude here, an air of slight detachment from the act itself, almost as if you were a photographer recording the experience. And like a photographer, there is a sense of rushing to the next image, capturing the perfect pose one moment, then moving on. Mercury does not savor, but rather forms a rapidly moving collection of images, so the pitfall is subtle voyeurism. The challenge is first to satisfy the hunger of your nervous system for the stimulation of beautiful images, then to convey that beauty back to your beloved.

Personal creativity: Your mind is involved in any creative endeavors. However, Mercury's placement here indicates little about the use of your full intelligence. Instead, the focus is on quickness of perception, facility with words, and wit. The sign placement and aspects are of special significance in determining your motivation and

style. For example, you could be light and playful, producing enjoyment as your main creative products, or you could be serious and intense, working on creative projects that require intricate schedules and strategies. The challenge is to create new ways to communicate emotional realities.

Competition: Competition is exciting to your nervous system. You are stimulated by mental competition, enjoying the gymnastics of mental skill. You risk much more verbally than any other way, often through intricate games of logic and strategy. The pitfall lies in 'talking the talk' without really being able to 'walk the walk'; you sound like you're a confident and willing risker when you may only be playing a game of words. The challenge is not to conquer others with a show of brilliance, but to fully engage them so the games can continue.

(Robert Pelletier)

Even though you are aware of your enormous creative potential, you tend to postpone doing something worthwhile with it. You are inclined to put off committing yourself, preferring to indulge in activities that serve only your own selfish interests. You tend to change the subject when someone puts you on the defensive about your lack of determination in applying yourself toward some goal. But you are sure that when the 'right time' comes you will demonstrate your talent to everyone. You know what with a little luck you will prove your point. You enjoy being free, and you realize that when you make a commitment, you are bound by it. Since you often lose interest when the novelty of a project wears off, you want time to decide on your life direction. A career that brings you into close contact with the public would give you the opportunity to put your best foot forward. You express yourself so dramatically that people are impressed, which should indicate the nature of your career interests.

You know yourself better than most people know themselves, but you will feel more guilty if you fail to live up to your considerable creative and intellectual gifts. You have special talents for direct communication and writing. You can devise many ways to exploit your creative imagination in your career and personal life. Since you need to know that other people appreciate your efforts in their behalf, you may choose a profession that brings you into close contact with the public. This would give you first-hand knowledge of how effective you are in helping people, which would be enormously gratifying. You are basically a very friendly person; and it would be surprising if you became alienated from anyone, even your competitors.

Once you grow up and realize that there is a time to play and a time to work, you will find a way to stand on your own. Freedom is priceless, but you must earn it by being willing to work and contribute what you can do others. Your future financial independence rests solely on resigning yourself to this fact. There are few gifts that come without having to make some exchange in return. You have much creative potential, which you can use in worthwhile endeavors that will bring you security in your later years. Take your cue from well-meaning friends who have succeeded in reaching their goals. Once you start getting feedback from your efforts, you will have the necessary stimulus to persist. Accepting responsibility in this task is a major requirement.

You are afraid that you will not make a lasting impression on people; but you pretend that nothing bothers you. The truth is, you want to be in control of every situation. However, there are times when you are unwilling to sacrifice your personal pleasures as a necessary investment in your career. Your carefree attitude sometimes suggests that you don't want to pay the price of fulfilling your potential. You think too much about problems that are imaginary rather than real.

Your domestic environment gave you certain advantages, although it probably delayed your maturing by contributing to your laissez-faire attitude. Be grateful that you were able to indulge yourself in your youth, but realize that achieving on your own terms means hard work now. You may have many excuses for not applying yourself, but there are probably few valid reasons.

(Howard Sasportas)

Creative pursuits, hobbies and recreational outlets are the means of becoming more conscious of the self and the environment. Some form of artistic expression may be the medium through which this person sees, thinks, feels and communicates. For those with this placement, experience is more richly understood and better digested if it can be described in poetic words, drawn, sung about or danced. Knowledge is passed on from generation to generation in this way.

Expanding the mind through knowledge and developing the ability to communicate and convey ideas contribute to greater self-fulfilment with Mercury in this position. Mental amusements such as chess, scrabble and other games of strategy and wit might be typical 5th house Mercury pursuits. Gymnastics, track and field events, and those sports which involve precision teamwork such as basketball also come to mind.

Mercury's restlessness and need for variety can manifest itself in an active romantic life. The flame of romance is probably kept burning longer if the other person is mentally stimulating. Flattering those with Mercury in the 5th about the acuity and breadth of their knowledge or their brilliant way of putting things will get you everywhere.

Parents with this placement normally foster the intellectual abilities of their children, and both probably have a lot to learn from one another. The parent-child relationship may blossom when the child is older and increasingly able to communicate and exchange ideas. Mercury in the 5th makes a good teacher or educator of young people; and I have often seen this placement in the charts of those who work especially well with adolescents.

Natal Mercury in 6th House (1)

(Freda Edis)

Those people with Mercury in the sixth house may be concerned with the refinement and perfection of routine skills. They may be very aware of the relationship between mind and body, particularly in the areas of day-to-day work and the people with whom they then come into contact. They are often observant and thoughtful about the details of routine work and how it may best be put into practice, conscious of the need to reduce tensions in daily life and work routines. One way for people with this placement to ensure a healthy interaction between mind and body is to pay some attention to diet and fitness régimes.

There is a deeper meaning to this placement. Often the care and concern with bodily functions reflect the mature mercurial nature of connecting all of existence through an understanding of the spiritual, psychological and physical needs of human nature. Work at the level of the physical body and immediate environment helps to prepare a vessel through which the psychological and spiritual functions can best operate. What is above then stands a better chance of integrating with what is below, so the sixth house principle of the concern with everyday needs is an important step in preparation for later alchemical transformation.

We see this step being taken in any preparation for a religious rite. The meeting-

place is prepared, the ritual objects and vessels are set out, ablutions may be performed, and priestly garments may be put on. The rite is set so that the minds and hearts of those taking part are purified and are at one with the rituals that are next undergone. These are the ones which, it is hoped, will effect some spiritual transformation. There is analogy here with healing rituals; the preparations for an operation have a similar significance, but at the material level. Mercury, at least in the sixth house, can be as at home with the practical as he is with the spiritual, provided that there is a continual awareness of the meanings which lie behind the practical.

But aspects with other planets will give more indications of how Mercury operates here; and sometimes these may be at odds with the underlying Virgoan meaning of preparation and purification. Signs on the cusp may broaden the scope of Mercury placed in the sixth. Mercury with Cancer on the cusp of the sixth house may indicate people who are aware of how intensely emotional their mental processes are when involved with everyday work; Mercury with Libra may objectively note that they are always trying to achieve a balance between their work and health needs.

People with this placement may develop their capabilities in a way which gives them satisfaction in daily life. Observance of the minutiae of routine work, their connections with colleagues and how their bodies and minds respond to the stresses and tensions they encounter during the working day will help them consciously plan a way of life. Some relaxation is necessary before they feel they can best serve others. They have a need to remain fit and emotionally at ease with their own work. This way they can best purify themselves before they offer themselves for service.

(Stephanie Camilleri)

With Mercury in the sixth house, there is a great need for meaningful employment. These individuals love to solve problems, and will need a sphere in which problem-solving abilities are necessary. They will dive into work with tremendous intensity and enthusiasm, ignoring time and physical needs, which will catch up with them later in symptoms of nerve strain and exhaustion.

If the ruler of the sign in which Mercury is located (its dispositor) is near an angle and is square or opposite the sixth house cusp, there may be some severe health problem at some time in their life, especially if a mutable sign is rising. In this case, they will struggle hard against the setback, either to overcome it, or to live with it and function in spite of it.

They are inclined to take themselves very seriously, and to be secretly afraid that others do not, although they may mask this fear behind self-deprecatory humor. If they have an easy manner it is usually affected, and not a reflection of their true nature, which is inclined to be intense.

With this position of Mercury, the mind runs ahead of the body, forcing it to accomplish what the mind has conceived; and this can bring on exhaustion. They want to help solve the problems of humanity, and may work hard and selflessly toward this end. Their nerves are often working overtime, making it hard for them to relax. From time to time, they may wind up in a state where they do not believe that they can accomplish physically what they see is necessary, which results in inertia. This inability to act is actually much harder on them than the strain of too much work.

Physical exercise is necessary for them to drain off their excess mental energy and keep it from affecting their physical system in a negative way. Since they are highly

competitive in sports, for relaxation they should choose something non-competitive, such as jogging or swimming.

They are hungry for appreciation, though often they do not show enough appreciation of others to warrant getting any themselves. They are usually too critical of themselves, and must be constantly reminded that no-one is or can be perfect.

(Bill Herbst)

Disease and healing: You are physically vulnerable to what are classically termed 'nervous disorders'. The term 'misunderstanding' acquires greater relevance, since errors in perception or thinking are responsible for behavior patterns that lead to physical breakdown or malfunction. Sometimes this is caused by the brain machinery itself; sometimes it's more the human operator than the machine. The pitfall lies in seeing every imperfection, thus becoming negative or pessimistic. The challenge is to collect and analyze data about any situation (including care of oneself) with an eye toward objectivity, and an inner attitude focused on restoration and maintenance of wholeness. Disease is a breakdown or organization; and healing suggests renewed clarity - making the right connections.

Unequal relationships: The emphasis on inequality in relationships is less important than with other planets. The tonal quality shifts away from general relatedness, toward the specific area of communication. You are more aware of differences in intelligence and education. The pitfall involves putting yourself down because others seem smarter or more eloquent. The challenge is to use your mind to observe the status and power distinctions that occur in all social settings.

Duty and service: Service is linked with rational intelligence or communication. Figuring out logical puzzles, solving problems, deciphering situations; these are all natural. You apply your mind to external situations, typically those involving both people and 'machinery'. Quotation marks are necessary because the machines you so love to take apart and put back together may be literal - metal, plastic, screws and bolts - but also metaphorical - the mechanics of human social interaction, for instance. In either case, you constantly look for flaws, broken pieces, and malfunctioning units. The challenge is to heal your own mind by using it to help others solve problems. While this provides clarity and an understanding of how things work, it can also become compulsive. Remember: if it's not broken, don't fix it. Don't even take it apart. If it is broken, study the basic design, discover how it works, and restore its functioning by repair.

Technical mind: You're possessed with a drive toward organization, an undying curiosity about the workings of things. There is detachment here, and neutrality, an almost computer-like sensibility. You process large amounts of information, constructing complex sequences of understanding, in part because you enjoy the endless feedback loop of mental stimulation. Your analyses branch out, to follow multiple lines of reasoning simultaneously. The pitfall involves your tendency to postpone final conclusions, instead being constantly in process with calculations. The challenge is to make your investigations pragmatically productive, to experience the satisfaction of problem-solving through clear analysis and critical understanding.

Discipline and routines: Regularity is not as important as variety. You need an active routine, one which satisfies your need for the daily stimulation of numerous tasks. Productivity per se is not as critical as the process of having problems to address, puzzles to solve. As with all Mercury levels, the placement of the Sun can significantly modify the way you approach your lifestyle. The challenge is to keep busy, with one eye on the eventual goal.

(Robert Pelletier)

You are a resourceful thinker, and you enjoy solving problems. A major issue is to find out how to apply your skills for the most benefit. You know that until you have developed your creative potentials, you don't really have any skills. Therefore you learn as much as possible to improve your chances for getting a suitable job. You believe in self-development, and you try to excel in using every talent to increase your options when opportunities come up. You put a value on your skills, and rarely do any work unless you are paid according to the quality of your service. Money may not be everything to you, but it does provide a tool for judging your performance. You are willing to work to get what you want, because you don't expect others to give you anything or do you any favors. Dedicated to your career, you perform your duties with professional attention. Your superiors generally approve of your accomplishments and admire your devotion to duty.

The environment in which you were raised allowed you to find a suitable outlet for your creative talents. You are grateful for the lessons taught by your parents and their urging you to think for yourself. You serve your own interests best when you serve the needs of others, for solving their problems or showing them how to deal with a situation brings out the best in you. People are more appreciative of your help than you realize, and they would be happy to do favors in return when you need them.

Finding a way to make your skills available through fulfilling some social obligation should be an important priority. You will experience great joy by making a worthwhile contribution to society, even if you act anonymously. Finding a way to do this isn't difficult if you ask people who are in the position to know. Don't be afraid to admit it when you are ignorant about some matter. Even if your formal education is limited, you can accomplish more than many who are better educated, because you know how to make the most of your creative potential.

Stop worrying about your problems that never happen. When external crises develop, learn to use them as opportunities to demonstrate your superior skill in coping. Don't do anything without a plan designed to reward you later in life, when security is so important. Take time to relax and unwind from the demands of your vocational interests. Clean living habits and physical exercise will pay dividends in a prosperous and productive way of life.

Your diligence and determination to succeed give you greater self-assurance and confidence with those you love. In a sense, these qualities are your love offering, and you hope to attract a love or mate who admires you for them. You hope that your children will learn by your example and take advantage of the benefits you provide to make their own life. Be cautious about starting relationships with people who don't seem to want to help themselves. You could be expected to compensate for that person's incompetence by taking on his or her obligations. Still, you don't have to fear competition; instead, look at it as an opportunity to prove yourself in difficult situations. Because you know your competitors' weaknesses, you have little to fear from them.

(Howard Sasportas)

Knowledge is acquired in the process of managing the affairs of everyday life and maintaining the health and well-being of the body.

With Mercury here, a great deal can be learned from the body - especially when little

things go wrong. But those with this placement must learn to ask the right questions at the right time, such as, 'Why do I always get this pain in the neck when you walk into the room?' or 'Why does my backache get worse on Saturday nights?' In its own domain of the 6th, Mercury dispatches messages from the unconscious mind to the conscious mind via those minor aches and pains which most of us interpret as cues to reach for the aspirin. Information about the environment is also available through the barometer of the body if we only learn how to read the instrument.

Health problems may be connected to nerves, excessive worrying, too much activity and not enough rest. Yoga, relaxation techniques, meditation and attention to breathing can help reduce the stress of an overwrought mind and body. Mercury in the 6th is sometimes a case of mind (Mercury) over matter (the earthy 6th): positive mental images of the self affirm health, foster the healing process, and may even serve in the cause of prevention.

The 6th house describes how we make use of our time; and with Mercury here, the overriding need is to keep busy. Check priorities: how much of the time is frittered away in an endless number of pursuits and activities which in the end don't really lead anywhere?

It is helpful if the work is mentally engaging and allows for some movement and mobility. If Mercury in the 6th is difficulty aspected, watch out for gossip, slander or back-biting among co-workers and a tendency for unresolved issues with siblings to resurface in the office.

Natal Mercury in 7th House

(Freda Edis)

When Mercury is in the seventh house it can indicate how a person develops an awareness of others, much as Hermes began to do in his relationship with Aphrodite. With this placement, a person may need intellectual stimulation in marriage or close partnerships. Much depends on the aspects to Mercury and whether it conjuncts the Descendant. Time may be spent in analysing or discussing the relationship; and these people may be unconsciously restless and critical in marriage themselves, or they choose partners who openly display these characteristics. They may display great understanding of other people's intellectual needs, or feel bored and frustrated if these are not forthcoming.

This was certainly Hermes's way with women on his travels through Greek mythology. He was one of the Bachelor gods of the pantheon, and his adventures with women, even with Aphrodite, were short-lived. The sedate, house-husband role was not for Zeus's messenger. It meant that he missed out on the opportunities to form long-lasting relationships and to watch them change over time. Though this is sometimes a painful process, it is not always so, but immature Hermes has none of the judicious staying power of Libra, which knows that perseverance supplies the conditions for the proper assessment of a process. Hermes was often too eager to be on his way.

The sign on the house cusp of the seventh will affect the operation of Mercury. With Pisces on the cusp, the planet may allow people the capacity to talk through emotional difficulties with a partner, though not without some vacillation between conflicting emotions. Mercury with Gemini here can lead to underestimating emotional needs. These people may delude themselves by thinking that all difficulties can be worked out rationally, or they may pick partners who show these traits.

Aspects of Mercury to ant seventh-house planets will also affect the quality of the relationship.

Over time, people with this placement may discover an urge to become more conscious of the manner in which they co-operate or collude with significant partners, bearing in mind that the underlying meaning is a desire to achieve balance between their own needs and those of their partners. They have the ability to develop an understanding of the nature of their projections and the qualities for which they choose partners. This could help them to appreciate the emotional content of partnerships, developing the detachment and the intimacy necessary to maintain a long-standing involvement. It is where the spirit of Mercury may be profitably active in the alchemical coniunctio. Only at this stage of the work on the psyche can the sacred marriage take place, a complete relationship between two opposing principles which allows for future progeny. In the seventh house, Mercury may help with the conscious recognition of both partners' needs, emotional and intellectual.

(Stephanie Camilleri)

Those with Mercury in the seventh have a great interest in people in general, and in what makes them tick. They want to experience the gamut of human relationships. Much here will depend on the aspects to Mercury. If trines and sextiles predominate, they will be the most pleasant and understanding of companions. With chiefly hard aspects, difficulties will be defined by the planets involved. Usually they are pleasant, even exciting, in one-to-one relationships. With oppositions, squares, and inconjuncts, they may have trouble with the way they relate to groups. They may be paranoid, think too much about what others are doing or saying, and worry too much about how they appear to others. They may originate rumors or stir up trouble, usually in an anxious effort to discover opinions about themselves.

This interest in people usually results in an understanding of others, not so much by empathy, which would require other placements, as by knowing so many different types that repetitions are bound to occur, so that there finally develops a clinical knowledge of the ins and outs of the human psyche.

These people can't be accused of being locked up in themselves. They look to others in order to know and understand themselves. On the path to self-knowledge, they may give themselves over completely to a teacher at some point, or go from teacher to teacher, ever seeking self-revelation. They are not usually secure enough in their egos to seek the limelight.

They are usually restless, without as well as within, seeking an ideal place to dwell, and will travel a lot, or go from one living place to another. They may even try to change themselves totally in some way once or twice by moving away from home, changing their names, and so on.

They are not particularly faithful to mates; but if a mate leaves them, or is unfaithful, they will suffer agonies. They are forever seeking a place or a group that can reflect back a good image of the self. They may complain bitterly if things are not just right; yet they cannot bear to hear others complain.

(Bill Herbst)

Mirrored awareness: Mercury in the 7th shows the relatedness to be the 'start-up motor' for personal thinking. You are not self-generating in mental activity. Instead, it is through connection with others that you become stimulated to use your intelligence, to develop rationales for solving your own puzzles. Naturally, you will be

attracted to people you see as intelligent or clear thinkers. The pitfall lies in a kind of inadvertent plagiarism. Don't adopt another person's mode of thought, no matter how brilliant it may seem. Rise to the challenge of using the mental stimulation that arises through relationship to develop thought-forms you can truly call your own.

Equal partnerships: Your curiosity is a great asset for connecting with others; and you spend a lot of time thinking about relationships. The pitfall, curiously enough, centers around difficulties in communication. There is a tendency for you to be too passive in your efforts to reach your partner. You tend to wait, thinking all the while, but stewing, hoping that your partner will initiate communication. If you want your relationships to live vibrantly, to be interesting and exciting, you have to be willing to stimulate them, not simply wait for them to stimulate you. The challenge involves studying one-to-one relationships. Observe every relationship in your own life and in the lives of those around you. Learn how they work, why some succeed and others fail. Become an expert.

Contracts, commitments: Commitments are formed only after exhaustive analysis. You look at every possibility, examining the relationship from every angle before making a firm commitment to it. And even then it continues to change. You love the nuts and bolts of designing contracts; structures of agreement are fascinating for you. And though it may seem paradoxical, disagreement is equally fascinating, at least in the sense of nervous stimulation. The pitfall is that information is endless; you can't possibly know all the factors. The challenge is to allow yourself analysis first, but then to comprehend the importance of decision. Each phase of the process if necessary. One without the other is not only unproductive, but boring, a cause of broken commitments and ruined relationships.

Co-operation: You are compelled not so much by co-operation as by ongoing negotiations. You are not always co-operative, but you're more than willing to discuss the possibility, sometimes endlessly. You're stimulated by differences more than by togetherness. The pitfall is remaining in a never-ending series of negotiations, setting up the rules, defining the exceptions, tallying what's already been decided, etc., without ever co-operating productively. You're susceptible to logical argument, however, and can be convinced by a silver tongue, so remember the challenge of coming back to yourself, or you discover yourself creating something with which you don't even agree.

Natural partner or partnership: Your natural partner has active, visible intelligence, a person who is curious, stimulating, and communicative. Your mate must be of high intelligence, at least in your eyes, and must be interested in a broad range of human events and experiences.

A natural partnership has a mobile, quicksilver nature. It should be free-ranging in association, with many outside friends and much socializing; and it must be a source of mental stimulation, opening your mind to new and exciting fields of inquiry of which you were formerly unaware. The image is a fast car weaving through the back streets and wide boundaries of a crowded city.

(Robert Pelletier)

Your need for communication brings you into close personal contact with the public; and you know that your opportunities for development will come from this sector. To make the right decisions about your career and personal relationships, you need the help and advice of a trusted associate. You are indeed qualified to help people with their problems because you understand their needs. Once you've convinced them of their potential, you can help them exploit their creative talents. The resulting

exchange of ideas is mutually beneficial, for your greatest opportunities will come through such contacts. You might choose a career in which you are a catalyst for people who are unaware of their talents. You may consider becoming a vocational adviser, even though you sometimes need advice yourself. In all probability, you will meet your future partner through this field.

You are a fascinating conversationalist; and people are generally attentive when you speak. Your sparkling presentation arouses interest in the subject at hand. You also listen willingly to people with problems, and are equally attentive to their ideas. They appreciate your efforts to help them derive lasting benefits from their ideas. You can usually count on them to help you gladly when you need help, for they remember how instrumental you were in helping them plan their future goals.

Your most urgent priority is learning to be more self-sufficient and have enough confidence to make personal decisions. you are too easily intimidated by competition, so that you don't assert yourself enough. you should compromise only as much as your career requires. You are at a crossroads, and there is tension between your early conditioning and your aspirations. Making the right decisions for yourself, in spite of your parents' opinions, will be a critical factor in determining your destiny. To fulfill your personal desires, you must either concur with parental suggestions or risk alienation. Your task is to help people establish a foundation on which they can successfully build their ambitions.

You need to be reassured that you can help people cope with their problems. If you persist, your earnings will grow as your experience expands. In your desire for increased earnings, you might make the mistake of expanding your operations and becoming excessively fatigued. While it is important to grow, you shouldn't exceed safe limits. Don't worry that you aren't doing all you can to fulfill your obligations to those you serve. The chances are, you have the highest motivation, which produces many rewards for others and spiritual enrichment for yourself.

The worst thing you can do is deny others the benefit of your ideas and your ability to solve problems. It would also be a mistake to focus your actions mainly on financial benefits with little attention to doing something worthwhile. This also applies to choosing a marriage partner. The best motive is love rather than financial gain, but the choice is yours to make. Marrying for love would give you the best of both worlds, for if you are happy in your personal relationship you will put your best efforts into succeeding in your career, which will benefit both of you. With your wealth of ideas, there are unlimited ways in which you can apply your skills to achieve your goals and gain the security you need.

(Howard Sasportas)

Mercury's dual function of gathering information and then distributing it again operates clearly when this planet is housed in the 7th: there is an enormous amount to learn through being with other people, but there is just as much to teach and share with them. Mercury in the 7th naturally desires to communicate and exchange ideas with many different types of people. Assessing and understanding how and what others think is a favourite pastime. Telling them one's own thoughts and opinions runs a close second.

Mercury in the 7th shops around for a partner who is intellectually stimulating. Of course, they may find so many people who are interesting in different ways that it is difficult to settle on just one. Then again, there may be no-one ever interesting enough. Nor is Mercury in the 7th immune to the pitfalls of projection: some may try to import another person to do their thinking, talking and decision-making for them.

Or they may attract someone who is non-committal, unreliable, or tricky to pin down. As hurtful as this might be, there is the secondary gain of having escaped being pinned down themselves.

While being careful not to approach the whole delicate and mysterious area of relationship too much 'from the head', some degree of objectivity and detachment is required to sustain a long-term involvement. With Mercury in the 7th, many problems can be 'worked through' if they are discussed and analysed. Some people with this placement may be fairly (or should I say 'unfairly?') critical and judgemental about 'those little things' which their partners do that annoy them. Fortunately, the antics of the god Mercury remind us that a sense of humour about such things is the great balancer.

Natal Mercury in 8th House (1)

(Freda Edis)

Where Mercury is in the eighth house, the house of long-term relationships, there may be a tendency to collude with or submit to partners at an intellectual level. The eighth house issues of death, sex, and the inheritance of resources can cause people with this placement to be acutely aware of unconscious interchanges between people. Often they look for the moments of change and transformation in relationships which they can use to best advantage. These people may be penetratingly aware of the nature and motives behind sexuality and hidden agendas; in dealing with these issues, they may need to keep in bounds tendencies to be tricky, controlling and secretive.

Mercury's dealings in the eighth house sometimes have far-reaching consequences. No matter how tricky and controlling Pelops was in arranging Oenomaus's and Myrtilus's deaths in order to secure the throne of Pisa and a wife, he was unable to control the fates of the kin who came after him. We see something of the interrelationship of Mercury and Pluto in Pelops's tale; more so, since the eighth house is governed by Pluto in the natural zodiac and the story concerns a mortal. Exacting retribution by killing is a divine function, not a mortal one; and Pelops had usurped both Hades's and Hermes's functions by killing Myrtilus by trickery.

Canniness and an intense drive will work in tandem with the sign on the eighth house cusp when Mercury is placed here. Mercury with Sagittarius on the cusp may actively seek out lasting resources and arrangements which will give them the intellectual freedom to pursue their visions; others might regard them as self-seeking and uncaring. Mercury with Taurus could ensure that complicated legacies are dealt with practically and with great determination of mind, perhaps unaware how much other people might be upset by such a seemingly cold approach to death or periods of great transformation.

Aspects with other planets will also influence how these people deal with eighth house issues.

People with the placement might need to develop an awareness of a tendency to control others intellectually by coming to a better understanding of the nature of the darker, plutonic forces underlying their behaviour. A rational examination of destructive issues in long-standing relationships may counterbalance the tendency to lash out verbally when thwarted by partners. These people need greater consciousness of the benefits of self-mastery to release them from the stifling effects of repressed emotional energy.

(Stephanie Camilleri)

This position of Mercury gives a deep, serious mentality; and although there may be the appearance of a breezy, easygoing nature, that is almost certainly a pose that has been adopted out of fear that the true nature, which is deeply serious, even solemn, will put others off.

These people may or may not be interested in money for its own sake; but they are usually very good at getting what they need when they need it. They generally know where to get the butter for their bread without necessarily working hard for it, and can't understand why others can't figure this out for themselves. This position often indicates an inheritance, although other factors will show if it is substantial and whether or not it will actually materialize.

These people may experience difficulty at some time during their lives over the question of their loyalty to some group. They may be put in a position where they will be asked to sell out, or choose one reality over another. They may or may not make the 'right' choice; but the facts will be fully known only to themselves. Courage will always be needed with this position, although they may or may not rise to the need. There may be knowledge of other spheres of life that can show forth as religious faith, spiritualism, creative writing of the imaginative or fantastic sort, or psychic activity.

There is a constant awareness of mortality, and either courage and faith in an afterlife or a terrible fear of death. They may face death every day in some way, either by their own chronic illness or by that of someone else who is close to them. They may have a job or career that involves risks, or working with other people who are at risk in some way; or death may haunt them simply because of their own paranoid fears.

If Mercury is under pressure from other planets, it can indicate a variety of mental problems, although great mental steadfastness under pressure is also possible. Once again, it is a question of rising to the occasion. There is also the possibility of the early death of a beloved younger person whose loss leaves them permanently changed somehow, either stronger and wiser or broken inside. Their own death is usually significant in some way, either by being dramatic, sudden, heroic or mysterious, or as the final act of a lifetime of courting death, or defying it.

This position of Mercury will contribute a certain charisma to the personality, making them attractive to others, although the nature of the attraction may be hard to define. It tends to give a pale or olive complexion, sometimes with many moles or freckles on the face. They are inclined to be thin, in youth at least.

They are drawn to extremes of style in speech, which can range from highly profane to affectionations of breeding, street argot, unusually low or high pitch, or the vernacular of some group other than their own. There may be a stammer, which comes from a self-consciousness over revealing themselves through their speech. Sometimes, without realizing it, they will take on the persona of someone they admire, changing their role models and style as their interests evolve.

(Bill Herbst)

Union: The more you communicate, the more you are on-track in your intimacy. Interactions need not be based on total agreement, however. While conflict in sharing is antithetical to many 8th house planets, here it promotes a sense of stimulation. As long as disagreements are purely mental, and not emotional, greater intimacy can

result. But don't rely so much on ideas that you disregard the being-to-being connection. Also, be aware of your tendency to talk about closeness without ever surrendering into a truly united state. The challenge is to use the connection of your mind with another person's as a kind of 'radar fix' to show the path toward real merging of your spirits.

Transformation: Your thoughts lead you to the edge of what your personality can conceive; and though this may seem perverse - having a mind that leads you beyond yourself - it's actually the most natural thing in the world for you. Develop a scientist's eye; investigate all the transformations going on in the world of your relatedness. Ask people about the significance of their changes; learn their languages, and consider yourself in the same terms. Keep in mind that it's not enough to simply think about transformation. You need to put what you learn back into life, to shift gears from being the scientist to become the guinea pig. After all, you are your own best experiment. The initial challenge is easy: to learn with your rational mind the syntax of transformation. The real trick lies in your mind's ability to teach your heart.

Sexual merging: Physically, your nervous system is sensitized to sexual intimacy. It intertwines with that of your loved. Stimulation truly resides in the vast network of neurological sensors that finally coalesce in the brain. Talk is often more sexual than touch, for you wish to merge with your beloved's mind. You're quite changeable in activity and response; and while this can be delightful in a lover, it can also prevent the steady build-up of intensity necessary for release. Sexual feelings may occur quite suddenly, even in inappropriate settings. Equally, you may think of a joke just after the experience of culmination, and, needless to say, this tends to disrupt the mood. Fulfill your curiosity about going over Niagara Falls in a barrel - your mind is the barrel; sexual power is the Falls.

Focused intuition: You are not so much a highly intuitive person as you are someone who is very interested in intuitive experience. Intuition is an invisible and largely indefinable process; and though you have the tools to be psychically sensitive, you don't easily relax into full trust of your powers. You stand back, wanting to check it out, to confirm it rationally and objectively. The pitfall is merely discussing the possibilities rather than using your intuition. The challenge is to tune your nervous system so you hear others thinking, or at least discern the pattern of their thoughts, if not the actual words themselves.

Shared assets: Your mind engages in perpetual bookkeeping, moving your resources around, reshuffling your worth. This can be energizing, a fully natural experience, in which case you enjoy the changes, or it can be enervating for your nervous system, in which case you gradually exhaust yourself with imaginary crises. The question here isn't how much you have, but what you do with what you have. Keep the money in motion - whether it is your own money or money you manage for others. Recognize that the significant time you spend thinking about resources is perfectly all right, for money and possessions are essentially a game to be played for your stimulation. Winning or losing is not the challenge; playing the game is.

(Robert Pelletier)

Your highly developed reasoning ability probably resulted from your deep desire to know as much as possible. You constantly search for answers to all questions about life and about people's motivations. Your persistent inquiry reveals more answers than are found by most people. Your exceptional skill in investigating the unknown qualifies you for such fields as detection, research, financial counselling or psychology. Your early environment allowed you to develop your creative potentials

and know that you could capitalize on them later. A higher education will enhance your abilities and give you the necessary skills to achieve your goals. It is to your advantage to continue your studies, no matter how successful you are, for it will expand your influence and increase your value to those you serve professionally.

You let people know that you understand their problems and that you have the skills to help them. You expect to be well paid for your services, because you know you are worth it. You look for opportunities to demonstrate your talents, and you are gratified when your efforts yield results. With your ability to help people with their problems, you should seek a career that uses this skill. Look for a field with growth potential, because you need freedom to expand as the demands for your skills increase. Your earnings should provide all the security you need for your later years.

Your career may be delayed because of family obligations. Your enjoyment of self-indulgent pleasures may also curtail the gains you could be making in your field, if you aren't investing the time and energy necessary to become professionally competent. You must establish some priorities in your professional and personal affairs. You feel you must prove yourself to the one you love and show that you have a firm foundation on which to build your ambitions. You may wonder if you are as competent as the next person; but don't be misled by other people's resources and skills - it's what you do with them that is important; and your ability to solve problems is a good place to start. See how your friends are achieving their objectives. Then, with good planning, you can accomplish everything you set out to do, and more.

It will be rather difficult to find the best way to put your ideas to work. There will be no shortcuts; only by persistently developing and promoting your ideas will you get the results you want. This means that if you want people to know what you can do, you must become so proficient that everyone will beat a path to your door for your services. Once you find answers to your own problems, you may then decide that you can help others with theirs. If you want to win patronage for your services, you must make some sacrifices, as every public servant must learn. If you are truly committed to your life's work, this won't be too difficult.

Trust your partner's suggestions concerning your career objectives. You probably recognize how valuable your mate is to you, and you want to live up to his or her expectations. Don't be afraid to change your mind when the evidence indicates that you should, for it is a sign that you are still growing. Maintain the highest ethical standards in everything you do. When you tell people only what they want to hear, you are not living up to your moral responsibility to them. You cannot afford to disappoint those who have come to rely on your expert judgement.

(Howard Sasportas)

The 8th house entices curious Mercury to explore and learn from what is hidden and less obvious in life - to ferret out secrets, and probe into mysteries in search of the bottom line. This is the detective-like mind, with eyes that can see in the dark. Bordering on a voyeuristic preoccupation, Mercury in the 8th watches the kinds of exchanges that go on between people - at the bank, the stock market, in the bedroom or behind any closed door. They may penetrate the world of money and finance, or turn their attention to psychology and the occult, with a fascination for the mysteries of sex and death. Although often adept at communicating and sharing with others anything which is obscure, subtle, deep or profound, they prefer to keep their own thoughts and motivations secret. For those with Mercury in the 8th, experience is not fast-food grabbed hastily between appointments, but something to be savoured and thoroughly digested.

Many astrological texts advise those with Mercury in this house (especially if difficulty aspected to Neptune) to examine all contracts for possible misunderstandings before signing. What one person believes is being said or promised may be different from how the other person reads it. The same note of caution applies to wills and inheritances - problems with Mercury in the 8th sometimes manifest as entanglements with relatives over such things. Any difficulties stemming from childhood or adolescent sexual explorations with brothers, sisters or neighbours are worth considering, as well as early encounters with the death of anyone close to them. Their own death could be related to diseases of the respiratory or nervous system, so attention should be paid to these areas.

With Mercury in this house, the mind is suited to investigative exploits and research work. Those with such a placement can be cool and detached about subjects which often arouse other people's passions and fears.

Natal Mercury in 9th house

(Freda Edis)

When Mercury is placed in the ninth house, it can indicate an intelligent use of a broad jupiterian mind which seeks to make connections between philosophical, religious and moral issues. Discovering the meaning of the underlying laws of life is important to these people. This placement can give great depth to study and higher education, and can give an indication of the principles to be met as a result of widening mental perspectives or taking long journeys. People with this placement may have some intuition about needing to submit their egos to a broader form of wisdom which has the effect of being a divine law, often inspired by a jupiterian recognition of order and regulation. At a concrete level, the study of the laws governing wider social structures can be of some appeal; but these people may need to become aware of the tendency always to take the long perspective and ignore issues closer to hand. At another level, Mercury aids the capacity to understand, in some cases transmute, the laws of conventional life when he is placed in his father's house.

In myth, the effect is miraculous on occasions. Where the ninth house impulse is too strong, and where Mercury here might rise too high and risk offending the gods, then there is, inevitably, a fall.

The sign on the house cusp may rule the way in which wider perspectives are reached. Mercury with Virgo here may indicate the powers of a discriminating mind which can meaningfully distinguish between important and less important philosophical issues; the fall would be into criticism and denigration of others if the wider perspective were lost. Mercury with Aquarius in this position may concentrate on developing a mind detached enough to examine new and unconventional ideas which may benefit humanity; too much Aquarius detachment could lead to the tyranny of ideas over emotion - a further example of the fall.

Aspects to other planets may also influence the way Mercury operates in the ninth.

The acquisition of greater knowledge is important to people with a ninth house Mercury placement; but they may need to guard against developing dogmatic intellectual attitudes or an over-insistence on their need to be the best-qualified interpreters of moral law. There may be an intuitive approach to systems of belief and a tendency to ignore any facts that are not consistent with strongly held opinions. These people may have a visionary and prophetic quality of mind; and this can be enhanced by ensuring that their views are based on strong ethical foundations, or

they may fall.

(Stephanie Camilleri)

Here there is great upward striving, especially when Mercury is in a Fire, fixed, or Earth sign. There is a desire to always appear at one's best, never to be outdone or made to look bad. Whatever storms may blow in these people's lives, they usually manage to land on their feet.

A ninth house Mercury often shows a rise in life through difficult circumstances, sometimes to considerable power. There is a mental restlessness with this position, a hunger for knowledge and experience that may lead to travel or long-term mental effort, some great study or piece of research or perfected virtuosity. There is also a loneliness here, the loneliness of the traveler, of the explorer. Actually, there is a need for aloneness, under the stars, alone with God, alone with Nature.

There is a need to experience the extremes of the human potential, to know how good one can be and how bad, how much one can learn about something, how much pain one can bear. This person will seek out friendships with those who have experienced all kinds of extremes. This is a very good position for ministers; and anyone with this Mercury will have moments when they will preach to anyone who will listen, about God, life, or other significant matters.

These people can be quite reckless. They are usually not afraid of dying, though they'd rather not; and they will run risks in order to have deeply moving experiences. Women with this position have a royal bearing and great dignity. If Mercury is in Leo, they will rise to power if other aspects support it. If the mentality takes a religious turn, their upward striving may lead them away from the herd to holy places where they will strive to know God or be absorbed by nature. If not religious, they will be political, in which case they will work hard for a better society and for more personal power so that they can help change to come about.

If villified, they will rarely stoop to defend themselves. They will speak out for causes; but about themselves they are usually silent. They will study and learn all their lives.

(Bill Herbst)

Conceptual frameworks: With Mercury in the 9th house, you collect abstract systems as some people collect stamps, creating a network that links all systems together. You love nothing better than a good old down-home philosophical discussion, preferably a debate. It won't matter what position you're defending, as long as the conversation stays lively. The pitfalls are numerous. Your mind is incredibly quick, but not always logical; and you leap to broad conclusions, often from a skimpy base of experiential knowledge. You'd like to know everything; but failing that, you settle for infinite variations on a particular theme. You have an answer for every occasion. A virtual master of rationalization, you can whip up a philosophy on the spur of the moment to satisfy the demands of convenience. Your challenge is to become a true librarian of philosophy.

Cultural perspective: You can never learn too much, see too much, travel too far. Everything you've experienced is connected to everything else, making your mind a central switchboard. You love long-distance contact; often even the telephone will suffice. All media are interesting to you: magazines, travel brochures, foreign films, anything to feed the mind's curiosity. You're interested in Brain Earth, in feeling that your nervous system is well-connected to a network that extends over the globe. You regard strangers as potential friends, new outposts in your network. You want to be

expanded, spread out, everywhere at once and nowhere in particular.

Higher education: You aren't likely to pursue a single path of knowledge; yours is not a path of expertise in one specific field. Much more likely is an interest in diverse areas of education, taking a little from this, a little from that, more a survey than a study in depth. This broadly-based education is modified by the placement of the Sun in the natal chart. If it is in the 10th house, there may be greater specialization, or at least aiming your educational pursuits toward a more singular area, funneling knowledge into career. If the Sun occupies the 9th, you tend toward greater breadth in your mental interests. In the 8th, it can go either way, depending on other factors. The challenge is to remember that dialogue is more important than pure study. Learning is most alive in interaction and two-way communication, a vital exchange of inspiration and stimulus.

The search for truth: You're fascinated by the infinite forms of truth. It's natural to explore all the forks in the river, knowing that each will eventually reach the sea. You hold information in your mind's eye, turning it, squeezing it and stretching it to see it change shape, cutting it into a thousand pieces, looking for distinctions, contradictions, and paradoxes. You don't arrive at a final product, a finished truth. Instead, you stay in the laboratory - testing, refining, experimenting. It's more natural for you to talk about the quest for truth than to tell it directly. Your challenge is to communicate the structures through which we approach wisdom. Truth is an endless source of curiosity, a study in relativity.

Ideal society: You idealize a society where people are taught to express their thoughts more effectively. Depending on Mercury's sign and the Sun's condition, you believe either in total access to information or in solid control of information, with the former more probable than the latter. However, in either case, free movement from place to place would always be permitted. The perfect society would be in a state of constant change. As Ruler of the World, you would be the ultimate nexus of information, connected to everything, yet constantly mobile, exploring your Kingdom.

(Robert Pelletier)

The circumstances of your life allow you to develop your mental faculties extensively and give you the privilege of utilizing your creative potentials to best advantage. You are eager to share your knowledge with those who want information; and you are skillful in your presentation. You look for ways to dramatize your own creative potentials, as well as your children's. They look up to you for inspiration as they seek to fulfill all your expectations of their creative talents. If they choose to follow in your footsteps, you will be deeply satisfied. In your professional pursuits, you know that if you understand yourself, you will probably have a better understanding of the people you deal with. You may occasionally wonder whether you will gain your objectives; but with your naturally self-confident nature, you are very likely to succeed.

You get along well with people because you understand them; and you know how to interpret what they need from you. You can help them see their difficulties with objective clarity, for which they are generally appreciative. Your wide circle of friends and associates is an asset in your career. It is important to define new goals periodically, as the old ones are realized. Your ability to earn a comfortable income in your career will help you achieve the independence you seek. Your partner will be a distinct asset, as long as communication flows freely between you. You want a mate who understands your goals and shares your enthusiasm in reaching them.

You don't pursue physical work if you can avoid it, preferring to utilize your ability to solve problems and resolve crises in your daily responsibilities. Conditions beyond

your control may force you to accept duties you don't particularly like; but the chances are that when you demonstrate your special talents, you will be offered a job at the management level, for which you are better suited. While it bothers you when you don't know the answer to a question, it merely shows that you must learn more in some areas. Be especially alert to the danger of being undermined in your job by fellow workers, although this can occur only if you are not well informed. You understand people's failings and liabilities, and you should seek a career that is related to helping solve those problems.

Your education is the base on which you can build the material security you want. Getting an education may not have been easy if your parents did not support your desire for it; and you probably had to extend yourself to get it. While being able to make more money may have been your principal reason for getting formal training, the resulting character development and polish are also important. But all your education will amount to very little if you aren't willing to use it to help people who require your skills. This will advance your position before the public.

You probably worked very hard to gain the knowledge that you have, so it is all the more urgent to apply it wisely. You should make sure your ethical standards are always at the highest level in your dealings with people. Lack of sufficient self-discipline in this area can erode the results of all the hard work you've invested to achieve your ambitions.

(Howard Sasportas)

When Mercury wanders into the 9th, he takes his wings along with him, for this is expansive territory to cover. An 8th house Mercury burrows deep down and peers closely into things; in the 9th, Mercury gains his perceptions and awareness by 'zooming up' or standing back and looking at it all from a distance and a higher perspective. Believing that life and the cosmos can be 'figured out' intellectually, those with Mercury in this house attempt (or should attempt) to discover and understand the laws and principles which govern existence by scrutinizing the larger patterns at work. A natural urge to expand and broaden the mind through study, reading and travel keeps those with this placement as busy as ever in this domain.

Usually, there is a desire to teach and share what they perceive and discover, and to inspire others with what has inspired them. This placement suits philosophers, clergymen, writers, publishers, educators and public relations people.

Adhering too fanatically to their own beliefs or version of the truth is the danger of a difficultly aspected Mercury in this house. Facts which support the cherished belief system are readily received, but the others are handily overlooked.

In some cases, relatives who live abroad may figure in the life, or a long journey might significantly influence how the person thinks. Problems with Mercury in the 9th can also mean bickering and gossip among in-laws.

Natal Mercury in 10th House (1)

(Freda Edis)

When Mercury is in the tenth house it may cause people to try to actualize their beliefs through a contribution to worldly responsibility. Those people with this placement may then choose a profession which exercises their intellectual faculties and brings them recognition. If Mercury is conjunct the MC then these people may well use their mental capacities to project on to the world an idealized image of

themselves. They may want to be seen as intelligent, lively-minded and well-educated, and to place themselves in the type of work where others might appreciate and admire these qualities. Sometimes they may experience their mothers or the dominant parent as intellectually curious, mentally flexible, perhaps overly rational, somewhat elusive and not so much concerned with their emotional well-being as with their education, sense of duty and sense of community. They may also display the same qualities themselves.

The effect of Mercury in the saturnian house is shown well in the alchemical text 'The Book of Lambspring'. Here there is an illustration of the old king devouring his young son, much as Cronos did his children. For sprightly and immature Mercury to take on the responsibilities and duties of governing, he must first understand and accept those principles from the authority figure who enacts them. All early learning takes place by mimicry or identification; and the old king has a way of ensuring that his son identifies with his values. The old king then brings forth a new son, one who is capable of reigning with him. So the meaning of Saturn devouring his son is to ensure, positively, that responsibility is understood. But there is also a danger, as with any alchemical work, that Mercury is ingested for the wrong reasons - a fear of relinquishing what has already been gained, which is a negative development of the saturnian principle. In this case, the Great Work may be spoiled, and future progress halted.

The positive and negative effects of the tenth house operation of Mercury can be judged by the aspects to the planet and by the sign ruling it. People with Leo on the cusp, or on the MC, may take some time to make up their minds about executing plans in a professional capacity; but once they do, they are likely to carry them through with considerable will-power and dramatic flair. Where Libra is on the cusp, these people may view their mothers, or themselves, as capable of seeing all sides of an argument. Perhaps they may also see them as indecisive and unable to find points of harmony between conflicting ideas.

Planetary aspects to Mercury in this placement may incline people to express their modes of thinking with difficulty or ease, depending on whether the aspects are hard or soft.

Where this placement is strong, people may have a tendency to idealize the capable, intellectual image they adopt in business and professional life. They may unconsciously take on the mercurial qualities of the mother, or the more dominant parent, not seeing how they can use their own considerable intellect to help decide on the most satisfying way of achieving some status or professional standing for themselves. There may be, also, an emphasis on gathering any kind of knowledge other than the type of self-knowledge which would lead to a sound recognition of their intellectual status and professional attainments.

(Stephanie Camilleri)

This position gives an extremely intense personality, particularly if Mercury is within five degrees of the Midheaven. These people are eager for the limelight, for recognition and praise. There is a great deal of pride in the self and the intellect, a great deal of ambition for mental achievement, to know a lot, to be able to speak well, always to know the right word, to express themselves accurately and with style. If Mercury is under pressure from hard aspects, there may be too much self-judgement; no achievement is great enough. They measure themselves against others they admire, and often feel themselves lacking.

These people usually were encouraged to develop themselves early, and were taken

seriously during childhood by their parents (particularly their mothers), whose standards they may still use to judge themselves and others.

This is a good position for writers or actors. If Mercury is under pressure, there may be too much nerve activity for comfort. They may exhibit nervous habits, facial tics, etc.. They may resort to drink or drugs to relieve the pressure on their nerves. They are 'wired', tending naturally to be always on the updraft. Coffee or other stimulants are not good for them because they tend to be over-stimulated anyway.

They can get on talking jags that drive companions nuts, talking about themselves until everyone is exhausted, including themselves. They should be encouraged early to translate this self-awareness and communicativeness into acting or writing. This is hard for them unless they have a good, strong Saturn, because they tend to lack discipline. They respond so intensely to the stimulation of the passing moment that they are exhausted later and cannot harness their mental energies for long-term projects.

They are witty and clever with words, able to turn a phrase to amuse companions. They don't like to be alone, and would much prefer to be surrounded at all times by exciting people. Nevertheless, it may be necessary for them to be alone from time to time for their mental and physical health, because company is so stimulating to them that they need the quiet of solitude to recharge their batteries.

They should be forewarned that their dreams of glory in youth must be exchanged for a more sober and down-to-earth view of reality, or they will awake in middle-age to a life left in ruins by their pursuit of glory and excitement, at which point they may simply give up and die young of disillusionment.

(Bill Herbst)

Collective responsibility: You may or may not be responsible, since you're changeable in your nervous orientations, but you're certainly aware of the issue. In every situation, no matter how mundane, you see the spiritual handwriting on the wall, the signature of larger purpose; and you try to figure out all the factors that must be taken into consideration. The pitfall, of course, involves spending so much time and energy in any situation calculating the greatest good for the greatest number that you inadvertently forget to act. Remember, you only need so much information before you take a stand. Your challenge is to talk to everyone about responsibility. You needn't push people, but you have a flair for delegation, for discerning each person's perfect niche in any situation. In many ways, it's your role to help others define what their responsibilities are.

Professional ambition: You think about your career constantly. However, you're often sufficiently caught up in the short-run factors involved in your career that you may overlook longer-term concerns. So in spite of your strategizing, your career moves of its own accord. You may have more than one career simultaneously, or a single career that requires knowledge from many diverse areas. In any case, the basis of your social status is mental. Any profession requires mastery of a specialized language; but your style tends to focus on the importance of information management. In a basic way, communication is your product, and translation is your service.

Missions and messages: Your thought processes are especially visible to others. When you speak or write, we are reminded of the importance of communication in human life. Your perceptions are often not your own, but come from a universal well; and what you see we all need to understand. So give voice to whatever wishes to

come through your mind - give it the best voice you know how. Learn to express your thoughts, and your message will have positive effect on your life.

'Outer-link' parent: It's not that you necessarily think just like your father, but there is definitely a connection between your mind and his. What he did was stimulating to the development of your own thought-patterns. Certainly this occurs with everyone; but in your case the effect is significantly more sweeping. Your father was on the go much of the time, moving from the home out into the world and back again. Where did he go? What did he do when he was gone? What he thought about was fascinating to you, like a foreign language of strange and compelling syntax.

Authority: Your own authority emerges most effectively through the patterns of your thinking, writing, and speaking. When you use your mind, people pay attention. It's not that you're always right, nor that you necessarily have a unique perspective, but more that the resonance of your thoughts and the way you express them has a commanding quality. The challenge is to use your mind authoritatively. Our nervous systems are sensitive to the peculiar rhythms of semantics, and it is not lost on you that words carry their own magnetic impact on people. However, in your case, the power does not finally reside in the words themselves; rather, it is you who invests them with their impact.

(Robert Pelletier)

You are very concerned with making the most of your creative potentials to achieve status before the public. You will probably choose a career that involves serving the public, for your ability to solve your own and other people's problems is your greatest asset. Because you enjoy your work, you extend yourself and obtain better results than others do in the same capacity. It's no secret that you enjoy the attention you get when you do a good job. People trust your judgement because you demonstrate high ethical standards in your dealings, and they know you won't deliberately let them down. You have a deep respect for the value of money, but you also understand the importance of basic human values in winning the public's admiration and respect. You know that you must maintain an untarnished public image, or else your progress and your material gains won't have much meaning in the long run.

Your success is based partly on the fact that you aren't afraid to ask people how you can serve their needs. You are a good listener, and they love you for giving them such attention. Because you show that you are able and willing to help them with their problems, they are happy to pay what you ask for your services. You are concerned about living up to the public's expectations, and you want to always be helpful to people who are unable to help themselves. You are not above accepting favors from friends to get established, but you must remember to reciprocate when they need help in the future.

Because of your parents' training, you understand that it is important to succeed on your own according to your own potentials. If your parents chose a career for you, you certainly resisted. You want to know that you have successfully met the challenge of your career by using your talents effectively. If you occasionally fail, you have only yourself to blame. You aren't afraid of competition because you know that it will sharpen your abilities. Your partner stimulates you to look for new opportunities and makes you realize that you must be aggressive in going after the position you want. Your progress is assured as long as your work makes new demands on your skill. You know that you can expect little from life unless you assert yourself forcefully.

You are reasonably efficient in capitalizing on your creative potentials, and you hope that your children will take their example from you and succeed according to their

own needs. Any sacrifices you make will repay you many times over later on. You know that making sacrifices is an investment that you can't afford to neglect, as your future security will attest. You are rich in ideas concerning your career, and you usually know the right time to promote them.

The worst thing you could do is lose faith in your ability to realize your goals and objectives. At the same time, don't forget those who have helped you in the past. A job without growth potential would greatly dampen your enthusiasm. Take advantage of every opportunity to demonstrate your competence, even if by doing so you reveal your superiors' inadequacies. They will respect your ability to compensate for the areas in which they are weak. You owe it to yourself and to the public to prove the value of your training by providing useful services.

(Howard Sasportas)

The qualities and principles associated with Mercury are usually reflected in the choice of career when it is in the 10th house. The work may involve writing, teaching, printing, lecturing, selling, the media, telecommunications, administrative or secretarial skills, forms of manual dexterity, and the transport of goods or people from one place to another. While pursuing career and professional ambitions, they can learn about themselves and the environment. Those with this placement like to be seen as bright, intelligent and capable, and will want to be remembered by others for these qualities.

If the 10th is taken to mean the mother, then Mercury will colour the image of her. If she was seen as clever and articulate, then the child emulates those traits and tries to develop them. The mother might have emphasized the importance of a good education and the need to be intelligent and expressive in life. She also could have been experienced as fickle and changeable - not always present - as if her body was there but her mind was somewhere else. I have seen difficult aspects to Mercury in the 10th in the charts of some people whose mothers were mentally unstable. If besieged by hard aspects, this placement could indicate communication problems between parent and child and a difficulty in understanding or appreciating one another.

Natal Mercury in 11th House

(Freda Edis)

Mercury's placement in the eleventh house can indicate the type of person who needs to exercise his intellect as part of the larger human family. This house is often where people look for intellectual friendship and companionship. It indicates the kinds of associations they join and where they find or reject group identity. People with this placement may develop an interest in gathering knowledge by promoting groups with a common purpose. They may or may not be vociferous in their interests, depending on how they use the aspects made to natal Mercury. Often they can be intellectually engaged in formulating ideas of their ideal society, which may reflect both their hopes and their social objectives.

Mercury is anyway known for his friendliness, so he is likely to feel at home in the eleventh house. Aquarius has the ability to strengthen the bonds of humanity between people; and Mercury's connective principle helps that process. We see the more realistic extension of this principle in the myth of Prometheus. Prometheus, the light-bringer, was not to be entirely divorced from his shadow side; Hermes, the god of duality, sees to that.

Aspects made by Mercury in this house to other planets will indicate how socially skilful people with this placement are.

The sign on the house cusp will also influence the way in which the thinking qualities of this Mercury placement are expressed in group or friendly activities. Mercury with Scorpio on the cusp may have a tendency to keep its thoughts to itself unless it can be sure it will be really effective in any joint activities undertaken. Mercury with Aries on the cusp may produce many original ideas in groups, but dislike the slowness of the decision-making process. Mercury's real function in any group activities is to recognize what has been left aside and to attempt to incorporate it, where possible.

People with an eleventh house Mercury may come to a realization that their effectiveness in groups and friendly activities is based on their own ability to communicate well. They then see that they need not project these qualities onto other people. There may be a desire to be open to the ideas put forward in groups which have a common and humanitarian purpose; but they may have to learn to integrate individual thought with feeling and action - otherwise, there could be a tendency to emphasize group ideas only.

(Stephanie Camilleri)

This location of Mercury strengthens the ego, making it easy to set long-term goals and stick to them. These people generally appear to be flexible and easy to get along with to those with whom they interact briefly; but over a length of time or from a distance it is apparent that they have been working inexorably towards personal goals all along. This says nothing of what kinds of goals they will choose; they may be the best possible or they may be totally irrational, linked to childhood fears, etc., but in either case these people will go after what they want until they get it, whether it is good for them or not. They will go through any number of horrific experiences, if necessary, in order to get what they want.

They are usually attractive, often with an electric quality to the personality that attracts others to them. Sometimes this electric quality is out in the open, blazing directly from their eyes; sometimes there is a veiled quality, as though masked, but waiting to blaze out.

Whatever their financial circumstances may be, they usually appear to others to be well-off and to be able to get whatever they need whenever they want it.

They appear to be unconcerned with their own image, but actually they do care immensely how they look to others. They generally think quite well of themselves, and thus it is easy for them to create an exciting style.

They may be somewhat callous toward those nearest to them. They are more interested in their own feelings than they are in the feelings of others, and more interested in those who are interested in them than they are in those who aren't. However, much as they like others to be attracted to them, they are not deceived by flattery. They like to measure their effect on others by how many they can attract, yet they themselves will also be subject to powerful attractions to individuals or groups.

They are the busy bees of ideas, carrying them from one group to another, buzzing with excitement, pollinating the mind of humanity. Yet it is not really ideas that excite them; it is the people who have the ideas; or perhaps, in their eyes, these are one and the same.

(Bill Herbst)

Group participation: You're very curious about what other people think, and, even more than that, about what's in the 'collective mind' of the group. You're cross-cultural in approach, with an ever-increasing pattern of organizational affiliations. Whether you are a joiner or not depends upon the placement of other factors (such as the Sun and Venus), but in any case, the breadth of your associations is what's important. The challenge is to extend your network until you've been exposed to every kind of cultural group, so that your mind has the broadest possible base of information.

Appropriate behavior: You're fascinated by the spectrum of conventions in social interaction. Which fork to use first, how to address a business letter, what clothes to wear to a cocktail part - these small details of social living are endlessly interesting to your mind. Most important of all are the conventions around communication: how to talk to a certain person, what is all right to say and what isn't. You love to interview others, to find out what they're thinking. It doesn't matter so much whether you follow your own or others' rules of correct behavior, but be sure to learn them all. The pitfall is gossip, while the challenge is to master the politics of information.

Friendship, social circle: Friendship is based on intelligence and the willingness to communicate. Your friends need not be the deepest thinkers in the world, but it helps if they have quick and facile minds, and are interested in a wide range of subjects. If they don't enjoy talking, they're not really your friends. You like having numerous people from whom to choose companionship, so your social circle is large and diversified. Touching base with friends is a primary interest; you want to keep up with current events in their lives. Sensitivity is not your long suit socially, so keep an eye on your tendency to gossip without regard for the truth. Based on this placement alone, friendship could be superficial. There is, of course, nothing whatsoever wrong with that leaning, since your challenge as a friend is to keep life well-stirred, to expand the mental connections between people. Be active in friendship. Go somewhere, do something together. But most of all, have a good time.

Shared creativity: Shared creativity is a mental event. It's not that you're necessarily the brains of the group, but rather that you take off from and expand the thoughts that float around the group head. Your presence encourages the free flow of ideas as well as debate over their relative merits. Your creative role is to disseminate ideas and provide constructive criticism to help perfect the group's expression.

Receiving love: You want expressions of love in verbal form. Even ordinary conversation, if sufficiently engaging, can be interpreted to contain the stamp of love. You're susceptible to a good line. What's important is a sense of stimulation, the massage of the nervous system. Love can be a delightful game of hide-and-seek. It's quite possible for you to feel loved by one person, but be enamored with the possibility of affection from another. You're an acrobat, able to juggle numerous light romances at once. The challenge is to understand that love is expressed through the mind, but that it emanates from the heart.

(Robert Pelletier)

You are a progressive thinker with your sights set on your future goals and objectives. You have a flair for defining your goals, and you know how to solve the problems you will face. You want to be free from the demands of your career so that you may pursue personally satisfying hobbies. Luckily, you probably chose a partner who shares your dreams and who is eager to become involved in enterprises that will enrich your life together. You have always had a strong urge to be free from

financial obligations. You have always known that once you satisfied your material needs, you would embark on a more exciting course, doing all those things that you couldn't do earlier because of your responsibilities.

You are valuable to your superiors because you stay informed, and you are always qualified for a higher level of responsibility. You will probably be promoted quite often during your career, and your efforts will bring you the recognition you deserve and considerable appreciation from the public. People are impressed by your genuine concern, for you show them how they can solve their problems. The public is warmly disposed toward you; and you probably have a wide circle of friends from whom you can expect favors if you need them. But you would rather not be obligated to them, preferring to use your own talents to get through any difficulties.

You feel it is critically important to continually demonstrate your creative ability. Your loved ones enhance your potentials by indulging you in your need to prove yourself. It is to satisfy your family's needs that you work so hard to exploit your potentials. You sometimes doubt whether you can satisfy the needs of the people around you, and you aren't really comfortable unless you know you've been helpful. It is especially heartwarming to know that your efforts have helped people become more self-sufficient in handling their own resources. You suffer some anxiety when lack of money delays your plans. Being financially embarrassed is particularly painful to you, for it slows you down and dampens your usual enthusiasm.

You focus on achieving financial independence, and you apply yourself energetically to that objective. You seem unusually competent in your work, and you deserve to retire early if that is what you want. Probably you won't truly retire, however, for you have many outside interests that give you much personal satisfaction. You are willing to make sacrifices while you are working to achieve your goals, because you know that you have to establish your own roots. Family obligations may have delayed the time when you could accomplish this.

It is important to you to make a substantial contribution to society, either in your career or as a private citizen. You've always felt some apprehension about your ability to carry out your plans as originally defined, although the public may never be aware of this secret anxiety. The chances are that you more than compensate for any subtle fears about your qualifications. You should be reassured by your superiors' approval of your effectiveness.

(Howard Sasportas)

Awareness of the self and life in general is expanded through friendships and group contacts if Mercury is in the 11th. Rather than just pursuing something alone, Mercury here enhances its knowledge by seeking other people who share a similar interest. For instance, you can study astrology on your own at home with some books, or you can gather together with other people interested in it. Through your doing so, other people's attitudes, points of view and experiences of the topic enlarge your own scope and appreciation. Helpful hints can be shared, and your own opinions aired: 'Oh yes, I hadn't seen that before, but did you ever consider...'. Problems with Mercury in this house could indicate trouble communicating or being understood in groups.

Mercury in the 11th also joins organizations which promote a common belief, concept or cause. One voice becomes many: a group of people thinking something is more powerful than just one person thinking the same thing. Mercury's thoughts might dwell on the ways in which society can be improved or advanced. Mercury in the 11th feels a kinship with like minds or with other group members, and sometimes acts as

the group spokesperson. Then again, they may be the one that everyone else tells to shut up so that other people can get a word in. The nature of the group itself may be 'mercurial' - debating clubs, writing societies, or networking groups which link or refer one person or group to another.

Much of the same applies to friendship. If Mercury is projected onto companions, then those with this placement may seek a friend to do their thinking and decision-making for them. Or a friend may turn out to be unreliable, gossiping, or the type who says one thing and then does another. An actual brother or sister may be their best friend, or a friend is sought who can be like a brother or sister to them.

Natal Mercury in 12th House

(Freda Edis)

If Mercury has this placement it can lead people to some intellectual understanding of the unity of all life. Able to use their considerable mental powers to tap into the collective, these people may develop an awareness of the archetypal and mythic roots of being. Mercury here can be at its most alchemical, trying to connect the worlds of the conscious and unconscious minds, both for their own and for others' understanding, successfully or not according to the aspects made by other planets. The placement can lead to introspection and, occasionally, to obsessive thoughts; and there may be an occasional need to retire from society in order to think difficulties through clearly. Often, Mercury in this position is in touch with collective forces which may not be consciously felt by other people, but are experienced at the feeling level. It indicates people who sometimes may not find it easy to distinguish their own thought processes from those of others; boundaries around thinking are clearly an issue here.

Part of the process of change Mercury has to submit himself to in the twelfth house is the neptunian dissolution. The black and changeable water breaks down all that has gone before, becomes formless and uncertain before it is transformed into the dark substances which eventually becomes the philosophical stone. Purification in the chaotic waters of the unconscious is a necessary and feared part of change, before the separation from unconscious identification can occur. Those who take the risk of fishing in Neptune's waters must face being swamped by what they find there, if only in imagination. If Mercury is to rise again in purified form, he must first submit to the death of old ideas and associations, allowing his old boundaries to be penetrated and to dissolve.

House cusp signs can reveal the way in which this sometimes impressionistic Mercury works. Mercury with Cancer may prevent objective thinking and encourage a clinging attitude to sometimes outworn ideas and emotions. Becoming aware of the appropriateness of a response to difficult circumstances is often a problem for these people. Mercury with Capricorn on the cusp of the twelfth house can incline people to overemphasize or repress the practicality of their thinking when they feel threatened by structures imposed on them by others; it may impede the process of necessary dissolution. But aspects from other planets to Mercury here will often indicate in more complexity just what it is that Mercury picks up from the collective at an unconscious level. Where the twelfth house is involved, dissolution may take place whether the person is aware of it or not.

People with Mercury placed in this house may come to develop their potential as way-guides between the everyday world and the world of a universal and archetypal imagination. Thinking and speaking in images to the collective would be of some importance to them, or they may draw on the collective for the kinds of symbolic

language they need in order to communicate their knowledge of deep levels of the psyche. In any case, they may find a periodic need to be sunk in the collective, neptunian waters of the unconscious. But they may also need to guard against the effects of obsessive thinking, and to protect themselves from the invasive thoughts of others.

(Stephanie Camilleri)

Individuals with Mercury in this position may have a damaged ego; if not, then their ego has suffered in childhood from pressures that have toughened it. Their sense of self is often damaged in childhood, which can make them wary of exposing themselves and their feelings. They may even hide their own feelings from themselves, trying to be a different person from who they really are.

They are usually sensitive to the pain and trouble of others, though they may react in a variety of ways, one trying to help while another turns away. Some feel that they have such a hard time solving their own problems that they have no help to spare for others. If there are no other aspects of twelfth-house planets, they may try to help by preaching or lecturing, or by recounting what happened to them along the same lines, rather than by giving warmth, sympathy, or real assistance.

It is not a good position for self-acceptance. They are likely to spend a good deal of time fantasizing about themselves, refusing to face themselves squarely. It is hard for them to accept their own faults and weaknesses, and equally hard for them to believe in their own virtues and strengths. They often enjoy reading stories of other people, watching movies, plays, and so on, that give them the illusion of getting to know the truth about people. This is the soap opera position par excellence. They may even pry into the lives of others, looking for similarities to themselves, seeking justification for their own foibles (even, in extreme cases, watching people through binoculars, reading other people's mail, etc.). They are inclined to gossip about others. In most cases none of this is malicious, just the result of curiosity.

If they respond to this position at a higher level, they will want to understand themselves and will seek help from counsellors, astrologers, psychiatrists, psychologists, psychics, or the like. They may study these subjects themselves in an effort to achieve more self-understanding, possibly even becoming practitioners.

This is a good position for a writer once the tendency to fantasize has been put into perspective. There is an instinctive quality to the mental processes. Sometimes they have trouble with straight facts, reacting better to the vibes in the air. They learn by absorbing ideas, not by study per se.

On the lower levels of response, they are inclined to overdo on eating, drinking, or drugs. Actually, sensible fasting is probably the best way for them to deal with problems.

They are inclined to be overly susceptible to praise, because they are so hungry for self-acceptance, and for the approval of others that will allow them to approve of themselves. If they rise to positions of power, they are apt to be led astray by flattery, if they are not careful.

(Bill Herbst)

Imagination: Your rational mind is an open and inspirational screen for the projection of your dreams. It extends into your own unconscious and beyond, into the collective unconscious of humankind. However, communication is often confused or

misunderstood. Sometimes you don't know how to express yourself in clear language, and sometimes others aren't tuned to your imagery. More often, you misinterpret what they're saying, infusing their words with images from your own unconscious. The challenge is to communicate your thought-dreams in as clear a way as you can. Realize that your mind is sometimes not your own, and learn methods for communication other than verbal.

Unfocused intuition: Intuitions are perceived as thoughts, as if they were the conscious product of your own rational processes. But they're not; they're signals you convert into thought-patterns. Your own thinking tends to flow with the patterns moving through culture, so you are a bellweather for currents at the cutting edge of society. New cultural vocabularies are natural to you, and your thinking changes with the times. To maintain clarity and minimize the dangers of misunderstanding, you must learn to be quiet mentally. The challenge is to understand that your mind is not merely a rational machine. Listen for the signals, and locate both their origins and their destination.

Withdrawal or isolation: You need to clear out the clutter of other people's thoughts from your mind, to take out the garbage. Too much input or exchange can fry your brain. If you don't get relief from the strain, your thoughts become garbled. It's not that you need to stop thinking. It is no more possible to stop the mind than the beating of your heart. But you can take a break from attending to your thoughts. Allow your mind to go its merry way without paying so much attention. You don't need to 'read' every thought. Direct the focus of your consciousness upward, beyond the cacophony of thinking. Leave it behind for a while; and when you return, your understanding will be clarified and refreshed.

Selfless giving: You love to figure out solutions for the psychological puzzles of people's lives. Be careful, however, that you don't turn into an advice machine. However pure your motives may be, there is a tendency to get carried away in trying to solve other people's problems. Even when they seem to want exactly that, you're better off letting them come to their own solutions through probing conversations. Remaining neutral is an essential part of your service. Occasional periods of silence - 'speech fasting' - are very beneficial, since too much talking can overwhelm your sense of order.

'Past lives': The way you perceive, think, and communicate is linked with past life patterns. Your nervous system is already programmed to interpret life in specific ways, ways that now must be made conscious. Misunderstanding with others are frequently a carryover from prior incarnations where the dissonance originated. Don't presume that communication is clear, especially if there is conflict or difficulty. Assume the opposite, that there is something beyond what meets the eye, and investigate the possibilities by visualizing images of yourself and the other person in past life settings. The more you distinguish then from now, the easier it is to reach the satisfaction of mutual agreement. The challenge is to work into your past lives to establish the origins of disagreement or misunderstanding, to finally reach clear awareness of the facts in any current situation.

(Robert Pelletier)

Because of your early upbringing, you feel free to pursue your own life and establish a foundation that is comfortable for you. Your parents probably had more faith in you than you realized, and they undoubtedly brought you up so that you could succeed on your own terms. Although you are cordial to others, you reserve the right to make your own choices and achieve goals that you alone define. You are rich with ideas, but at first you have some difficulty finding ways to apply them. You generally try not

to attract attention, especially when you are attracted to someone and don't want the relationship to gain public notice. You are clever at negotiating your financial affairs quietly until you feel confident that they are sufficiently developed to be made public.

Your interests are diversified, so you always have an alternative direction to follow if your current program fails or becomes uninteresting. Because you work quietly behind the scenes to develop your skills, your career is far more advanced than anyone can tell from appearances. You have the ability to apply your basic talents and resources to achieve your goals. The financial rewards of such a career will satisfy your need for security.

Developing your skills should have a high priority, because others may not always be available to help you. A good education will teach you how to use your potentials to accomplish your objectives. You cannot afford to neglect the trivial details that you encounter in your career, even though they seem like a waste of time. Through dealing with these chores, you can become independent of the people you would otherwise have to rely on. This is the only way you can be in complete control of any situation that develops in your career. Your career should involve working with the public in some way, for you are qualified to solve many kinds of social problems. Social service might be an attractive field for you, and it would give you freedom to come and go as you choose in performing your duties.

You don't mind making some sacrifices for those you love, but you resent it if sacrifices is expected as a condition of the relationship. you should choose a partner who sympathizes with your goals and who will work with you to reach them. You would resent a partner who is unwilling to share your highs and lows, successes and failures, or someone who constantly asks you to indulge him or her. You will work without recognition until you feel qualified to establish yourself firmly in your career. You consider this a good investment in developing your creative talents.

Careful self-analysis may help you appreciate your creative potentials and understand how using them positively can help you reach your goals. You tend to underestimate your abilities and credit others with more talent, even though theirs is no more significant than your own. You are sometimes more generous and thoughtful to your friends and associates than they deserve.

(Howard Sasportas)

Mercury doesn't exactly wander into the 12th house - he falls into it. And, like Alice, he finds himself in a strange land, encountering things that are awesome, helpful and fascinating.

Primarily, a 12th house Mercury attempts to build a bridge between the conscious and unconscious minds - to integrate into conscious awareness what is operating in the hidden depths of the psyche. This involves a twofold process. First, those with this placement must venture into the imaginal realms of the unconscious, although if they don't choose to take that initial step, it doesn't matter - what is down there will sooner or later come up to get them. Secondly, once in that realm, they must look around, take notes and then come back up again. If they get stuck down there, forgetting to return up again or unable to do so, then someone else will have to be called in to rescue them.

What does all this mean? Those with Mercury here - through introspection, soul-searching, psychotherapy, good literature, or dreamwork - need to explore the unconscious to find out what makes them tick. Depending on the aspects to Mercury, some of what is stored there will be useful and productive and well worth bringing to

the surface. However, other stuff may need to be sifted through and sorted out - especially learned impressions and memories from the past which, consciously remembered or not, distort and obscure how information received in the present is being interpreted. In order to see what is in front of them more clearly, they will have to clean up some of the early life (or previous life?) debris cluttering their immediate perception and awareness.

MERCURY BY ASPECT

Mercury conjunct or sextile Venus (Robert Pelletier)

The conjunction or sextile of Mercury and Venus shows that you have an affable manner and social grace. You get along well with most people because you know when you should make compromises in order to maintain harmony. But this doesn't mean that you give in when you know the other person is in error. You generally try to be fair in making judgements so that you do not offend people without just cause. You know how to express your opinions skillfully so that no-one feels threatened or intimidated by you, and you are resourceful in gathering information to document what you say. Not usually hostile or argumentative, you prefer to give everyone you deal with the benefit of the doubt when a difference of opinion arises. It is part of your refined nature that you let people have the opportunity to convince you of their point of view before you take any action.

Your gentle and easy-going personality is an asset in most professions, but you might find it difficult to cope with the abrasive elements of close and direct competition. This possibility should be taken into consideration when choosing a profession. It is better to work alone or with a small group of people so you won't have to worry about troublesome competitors.

You could find enjoyment in public speaking or the dramatic arts. Writing could also prove satisfying because you have a natural talent for expressing yourself well. Your imaginative style is fresh and charming and appeals to people who want to be entertained as well as informed. You are most comfortable with subjects that are not too dense and cumbersome.

You are fairly clever in devising schemes for improving your financial condition. You can use your talents effectively and can usually translate your ideas into cash. Your associates will support you in your enterprises, because your balanced judgement reassures them that you can't be too far off base. You convince them that you will succeed and generally win the co-operation you need. But you don't ask others to take risks you aren't willing to take. Because you are careful to adequately prepare yourself in advance of any action, the element of risk is greatly reduced anyway. And you shy away from complex projects that require prolonged effort before any benefits can be obtained.

Mercury conjunct or sextile Venus (Karen Hamaker-Zondag)

These two planets are never more than 72 degrees apart, so they only form two major aspects - the conjunction and the sextile. Because they always remain in each other's neighborhood, they repeatedly form the same aspects. In practice, there seems to be scarcely any difference in effect between the conjunction and the sextile; at most, the conjunction is the more powerful.

Mercury, as the planet of contacts, in aspect with harmony-seeking Venus makes people generally approachable. They prefer discussions to be agreeable and are inclined to make concessions. They desire to get on well with people and they

respond to a pleasant atmosphere.

The way they analyze facts is influenced by Venus, too. For the sake of harmony, they may refuse to investigate too deeply. Outward agreement is what carries the most weight.

Friendliness and sociability do not necessarily make for maturity. There is often something childish about these people. It is not unusual to see children with these aspects remaining infantile for longer than normal (provided other factors in the chart, such as a strongly placed Saturn, do not counteract this). Conflicts are painful; they do not like taking sides, and they find a strained atmosphere hard to take. So these people are prone to back off if this will ease the situation. Although they are vulnerable, they are, by the same token, also naturally diplomatic and able to sort out differences of opinion and pour oil on troubled waters.

The way in which they fulfill the need for permanent relationships and for material security (Venus) always has a mental and communicative slant when Mercury is involved. Therefore they need relationships where they can talk to people (although not necessarily on anything very profound), and verbal exchange is very important.

Sometimes a Mercury / Venus aspect can make the mental processes rather lazy. Venus is not the most active of planets; and, since Mercury has a great deal to do with the learning capacity and school, children with such an aspect sometimes fail to appreciate the need to study hard and are more interested in having fun with their friends, or prefer to do something creative. This certainly does not mean they are unable to learn, simply that their interests probably lie elsewhere.

Mercury conjunct or sextile Venus (Betty Lundsted)

When these two planets are tied together by aspect, it indicates that the mother of the person has had an influence on the ability to communicate. It can indicate a person who enjoys communication, who may be involved in the arts, in literature, in appreciating the beauty in the world. It may also indicate a person who loves to talk.

Mercury conjunct Venus (Betty Lundsted)

The childhood environment of this person includes open communication: the family talks about what it wants. Although the words may not be intellectual, the child is exposed to conversation. This may produce a 'wordy' child and, consequently, a 'wordy' adult. It may be a person who talks too much about nothing, or it may indicate a prolific writer, depending on the rest of the chart indications.

Venus suggests the type of effect the mother has on a child's psyche. When the conjunction is afflicted by another planet, it may be determined how the person is hampered by the mother's influence. This individual will enjoy using the senses, and will enjoy some art form related to the sign in which the conjunction takes place.

Mercury sextile Venus (Betty Lundsted)

This aspect happens on those rare occasions when Mercury goes retrograde and allows Venus to catch up to its position via the sextile. With this aspect, the background of the person is more shy than with the conjunction, but it is productive when it receives proper training. Talent emerges that connects communication and the arts. An art appreciator, a communicator in the arts, someone interested in the classic art-forms, or someone interested in the large-scale merchandising of beauty items may emerge.

This tie between Mercury and Venus indicates the person's ability in childhood to talk with and easily relate to the mother and her concept of femininity. Other aspects that may tie into this one will clarify the picture more.

Mercury conjunct or sextile Venus (Charles Carter)

Since these planets are never more than 76° apart, it necessarily follows that the only aspects that can be formed between them are the conjunction, semi-sextile, semi-square, sextile and quintile, unless we also count the decile and semi-decile (36° and 18°). But as the planets are so near together at all times, aspects between them are of frequent occurrence and I consider that only the conjunction, semi-square and sextile are of much account. Even with these, fairly narrow orbs should be used if marked results are to be looked for.

These contacts may be treated under one head, for they do not differ materially. They always give some charm to the manners, speech and writings, but with the semi-square a certain vanity and effeminacy may be apparent, and sometimes a love of ease and luxury, and an undue sensitiveness. But the aspect is far too weak to be of much account unless the rest of the chart is of a similar tenor. The sensitiveness of the conjunction is not marked, and is of the kind normally associated with refinement and good breeding.

The sextile and conjunction bestow good spirits; a charming, cheerful, happy nature, with much friendship and sociability. There is, as a rule, a liking for young people; and the native himself is often juvenile in his tastes: sometimes there is an element of what is called the child-psychology with its harmless, rather superficial interests and lack of real depth of purpose. This is naturally most observable when the influence of Saturn is not pronounced.

These aspects do not of themselves bestow genius, but they are of great value to a writer or orator, for, though they will not indicate a brilliant intellect, they will give a pleasing expression to the native's thoughts.

In respect of the health, they operate very beneficially, indicating absence of friction, and healthy nerves.

They may bring profit through art, writings, speaking, and any 3rd house activity, the conjunction being, of course, always more powerful than the sextile, which will be much subordinated to the rest of the chart.

For some reason that I cannot explain, the conjunction does not seem to be favourable to the children of the native. Often indeed there are none; and in other cases there is separation or a lack of common interests. It seems to tend more to the production of intellectual offspring, such as works of art and literature. The sextile also appears to deny or limit the number of children; or there may be a tragic bereavement, or sorrow of some kind through one of them. It is said that 'genius is sterile'; but it seems strange that a good aspect of Venus to Mercury should have these results. Since Venus dislikes pain and responsibility, it might incline the native to avoid the having of children, but it is hard to see why it should affect children adversely when they have arrived. Nevertheless, I refer those who may question this observation to an examination of actual cases.

Natal Mercury conjunct Mars

(Robert Pelletier)

Your Mercury conjunct Mars indicates that your mind is restless and eager to gain new information, but you always feel that the answers you get are somehow not final. Your creative ideas are imaginative, and you exploit them energetically. However, you lack the patience to stay focused on any one interest for very long. No matter what position you take you are positive in your opinions and very insistent about voicing them. You are argumentative, and enjoy locking into debate with anyone who challenges you. But unless other factors in the chart provide it, you don't bother to get all the facts before you express yourself. Always sure that you are right, you are generally premature in your judgement. It isn't easy for you to say you're sorry when you are wrong, but you may do so when it is expedient. You tend to interrupt others who are already in conversation, and to arouse their antagonism by volunteering information before being asked. Almost nothing escapes your attention, and you may have overheard someone say 'Here comes the know-it-all' as you approached.

With your sharp mind, creative ideas, and aggressive disposition, there are many professions in which you will be comfortable and free to express yourself. These include teaching, public relations, law, vocal coaching, acting, and writing. These occupations would give you unlimited opportunities to display your talents. Because you have plenty of energy to apply yourself to your goals, you can establish your own degree of progress. It would probably be best for you to work by yourself. Few people have enough nervous energy to maintain your pace, and you would be brutally frank in reprimanding them if you thought they were 'dragging their feet'. You might be wrong, but no-one could convince you of that.

You do not like to be rejected by someone you are emotionally interested in, but you do not dwell on it for very long. You feel that you can always find someone else, for you are progressive and rarely look back. But this actually causes you to make the same mistakes again and again; you don't take the time to reflect on past experiences and learn from them. Your defence is that you are too busy to concern yourself with unimportant matters. It would be wise to spend a little time examining this so-called trivia, because it might reveal why you are not developing as well as you could.

Try to slow down. Your mind races at breakneck speed, and your nervous system suffers. Your mentality may be healthy and energetic, but your physical frame won't stand the abuse you expect it to take.

(Karen Hamaker-Zondag)

Contacting people and talking to them (Mercury) is speeded up by Mars. These people are liable to speak quickly and to the point, and are always ready to have their say. It looks as if they act first and think later. They are not afraid to stand up for themselves and are only marginally interested in whether or not others agree. They can vigorously defend an idea - sometimes too vigorously - and they do not mince words.

With this conjunction, thoughts never stand still, although they are not always steadily applied. Mars is naturally rather uncontrolled; and Mercury, too, encourages these people to jump from one subject to another. Therefore this is not a good position for prolonged concentration, but is more suitable for quickly absorbing, arranging and providing masses of data.

These people need to take care not to speak too fiercely. Mars can make people

tactless and can cause them to blurt out things that others may find offensive. Indeed, any aspect between Mars and Mercury can sharpen the tongue. With the conjunction, these people can be very sarcastic and satirical, becoming formidable opponents in debate but also making enemies.

Mercury conjunct Mars is impatient when others take time to put their thoughts into words; and people with the conjunction are inclined to interrupt them in order to finish what they were going to say - which is why this aspect is said to indicate a bad listener. They are better at making contacts, holding conversations, gathering information, etc., than at listening to others. But, bluntly spoken though they may be, they are often very honest and straight-forward.

(Betty Lundsted)

Mercury is the symbol of our ability to communicate, the ability to hear others as well as to talk with them. Mars symbolizes the 'I act' principle. Mars energy includes anger, violence, harshness and thoughtlessness in certain signs. People born with Mars-Mercury aspects emphasize verbal intersection. They may act on words - they hear, they speak, they act. They may speak impulsively, may react impulsively to what they hear; they may not listen to others. The mind works quickly, jumping to conclusions, skipping the necessary steps when learning good work habits in school or on the job.

Children with this aspect usually have trouble learning multiplication tables or division - they don't want to waste time on the rudiments. They don't listen easily because they are ahead of most people they talk with - but this doesn't make them smarter; it just makes them impetuous. The conjunction may imply a quick mind, but sometimes the tortoise wins the race. The environment is verbally volatile when these people are young, making them quick to explode, and quick to use or misuse words when they are older. The manner of verbal expression will come from the sign in which the conjunction is placed.

(Charles Carter)

This seems upon the whole a desirable position, for it gives very great mental energies, especially of a controversial and disputative kind. It is virile, aggressive and satirical.

In a bad sign, or when badly aspected by other bodies, it may cause breakdown from over-work, quarrelsomeness, discontent, and the making of many enemies. But it never lacks energy and courage, and it is entitled as a rule to respect for its sincerity and downrightness. It is interesting to note that so vehement an orator as Cicero is said to have had this contact.

It is an excellent position for a writer, especially for one who has to do with Martian topics or people (for example, Rudyard Kipling and his tales of soldiers and animals). It is good for all kinds of polemic writing.

Mercury trine Mars (Robert Pelletier)

Your Mercury trine Mars shows that you have a lot of creative energy and the imagination to express it in many ways, although you sometimes lack the enthusiasm to do so. You know your capabilities and limitations and have enormous potential to succeed in almost anything you attempt. However, success never seems urgent enough to instill in you the desire to achieve. You cannot be forced to do anything you don't want to do, and no-one can deter you from what you want.

You have considerable depth of understanding, and the ability to concentrate when it is important. Well-informed on many subjects, you can hold your own in any conversation. You are inoffensive and friendly to everyone you meet. You can be trusted with classified information and would never reveal someone else's secrets.

There are many fields in which you can apply your skill in communication. Some of these are law, politics, public relations, education, writing, acting, and military service. Another endeavor that would prove rewarding is working with young people or children. You have the patience to cope with their boundless energy and the enthusiasm to stimulate them to achieve on their own. Whatever occupation gives you the most satisfaction is yours to choose. You are not intimidated by the excellence of your contemporaries, and you don't threaten those who are less skilled than you. You are equally at ease working alone or with people in large groups. But you can achieve the most worthwhile effects by working with groups, since your temperament lends itself to this.

You may also enjoy many avocational interests, especially crafts. You could become so competent in a craft that eventually you might make it your primary occupation. You have the talent for this kind of work and the imagination to succeed.

You enjoy the company of people who are not troubled with psychological hangups. Not one to interfere in the lives of others, you demand that others give you the same consideration. You will probably respond emotionally to a person who is creative and inspired, someone who would co-operate with you in a mutual endeavor suggested by either of you.

Mercury sextile Mars (Robert Pelletier)

With Mercury sextile Mars, your mentality is sharpened by an insatiable curiosity that will not rest until you have acquired all the knowledge you desire. But obviously that point will never be reached, and you will never stop learning. You make sure that you are reasonably well-informed before making any statements, because you want the approval of the people you are talking to. You express yourself imaginatively, and your delivery sparkles with drama. Even people whose opinions differ from yours are convinced by your arguments and won over to your position. You know how far you can extend your ideas to people before reaching a point of diminishing returns. Usually they will concede to you long before this happens. You don't jump to conclusions without being sure of the facts on which you base them.

You are a genuinely friendly person and don't wait to be introduced to others, for you see no reason to waste time waiting for a formal introduction. You enjoy meeting people and conversing with them. Although you are a persuasive talker, you are also a good listener. That is one way you've learned so much; when you need information, you are never afraid to ask someone who knows.

Your friendly attitude and mental agility can bring you success in many endeavors. You may be inclined toward such fields as law, teaching, writing, public relations, or any occupation that requires trigger-fast responses. You have the mental chemistry to succeed as a reporter, and the mobility of the profession would especially appeal to you. Your eager interest in anything new would never lack stimulation in this work, and you could write interestingly and breathe life into even the most sombre subjects. Communication is your strong talent, and you should always strive to exploit this ability. Politics would also stimulate your talents. You enjoy a good fight, and there would be excellent opportunities to present your opinions to those who want to be informed.

You are friendly to everyone, but heaven help the person who tries to deceive you. Your response is as sharp and incisive as a surgeon's scalpel, and that person will know better than to provoke you again. You are truthful even when it hurts, but you are also able to admit it and laugh at yourself when you make a stupid mistake.

Mercury trine or sextile Mars (Karen Hamaker-Zondag)

Much of what has already been said about the conjunction also applies to the harmonious aspects. Mars sextile or trine Mercury indicates an alert and acute mind, and may make a fluent communicator. Conversation is brisk and lively, pugnacious and energetic, and the native is quick on the uptake. These aspects are accompanied by excellent powers of concentration, and can give an edge over nearly anyone with whom he or she may be arguing; so he or she is a surefire debater. Since the aspects are harmonious, the native is less likely to antagonize others than one would with the conjunction or with one of the discordant aspects, and is less likely to become embroiled in altercations. Nevertheless, mental activity is as great as it is with the conjunction. The native sees all kinds of connections and snatches at all kinds of ideas from outside. Constant alertness enables this person to pick up information readily, but thoughts give him or her little rest.

Being free to express opinions is something that is considered important. This person has independent views on everything. Although Mars does not encourage mature reflection (so there is every chance that ill-considered conclusions will be reached), this is offset by the speed with which relationships can be seen and facts can be absorbed. Even when young, this individual displays the need to be independent in thought and deed; however, the openness of a Mars / Mercury aspect gives the grace to admit when he or she is wrong.

Mercury is the planet astrologers look at when we wish to know about manual dexterity, and, when it is harmoniously aspected by Mars, we often find that the owner of the aspect is very skilled with the hands, even though Mars may encourage the individual to leave tasks unfinished.

Mercury trine Mars (Betty Lundsted)

This aspect signifies an open household during the individual's childhood as far as certain kinds of communication are concerned. The most value from this aspect comes when it is applied toward career, for it is a prolific communicator: the mind is always working and is capable of being extremely productive. The aspect will only work if it's free, so look to see if it carries hard aspects from other planets.

This mind can be lazy, for the gift hasn't been earned in this life. When the talent is a natural one; when the person hasn't struggled to 'earn' it from a conscious point, he may overlook its importance or even its existence. This can indicate a person who procrastinates.

Mercury sextile Mars (Betty Lundsted)

This aspect bestows the ability to act with reason; the mind and the action taken can be co-ordinated in time. These people can be creative producers. The childhood atmosphere encourages the discussion of problems and circumstances, so they can easily discuss their difficulties as adults. The imagination is fertile. Although it isn't as fertile as a Neptune aspect will be, it is fertile in a productive way because this individual is likely to act on constructive thoughts.

Mercury trine or sextile Mars (Charles Carter)

This contact powerfully strengthens the mind, and gives great vigour to its faculties, especially the more practical and positive ones. It is untiring, incisive, alert, and singularly capable of detecting weakness in the positions of its opponents, and of instantly taking advantage of them. It is common in the charts of people who have engaged in successful struggles, such as military or naval commanders, politicians, financiers, and reformers. It has been stated that contacts of some kind, usually malefic, were always found in the maps of pacifist conscientious objectors during the Great War.

The position is courageous and often rash, so that even the good aspects do not tend to personal security, although naturally the effects are not likely of themselves to be very serious.

It tends to literary work and is often childless in a physical sense, its books being its offspring. At the same time there is much fondness for children and their society.

The disposition is usually good-natured, but sometimes the native is centred in his own interests; and there is, as a rule, more practical common sense than sentiment in the character.

It is excellent for debaters and disputants, being very quick in argument and retort and never at a loss for an answer; it loves a fight, with either the spoken or the written word. It is probably good for all trades and occupations that have to do with traffic and engineering work that is connected with locomotion.

With regard to health, it strengthens the nervous system and gives quickness of hand and eye, but it is apt to cause the native to like to run risks and seek the sensation of danger.

Mercury square Mars (Robert Pelletier)

The square from Mercury to Mars gives you enormous mental energy for tackling arduous tasks, but you may lack the determination to persist and complete them. You are strongly opinionated, and get angry when your views are not accepted. People may avoid getting into a conversation with you because you will start an argument at the slightest provocation. You are not a good listener if the opinions being expressed are different from yours. You find fault with just about everything, and no situation is too insignificant to escape your notice. Your rudeness to others is tactless and abusive, and you don't even realize it. You should learn to be silent when you are not fully informed on a subject, or you risk being ridiculed by those who know what they're talking about.

Your imagination is highly developed, and you only need to apply it constructively. You will have to make many concessions to others before you can succeed in any profession. Other people need to express themselves just as much as you do; until you learn to adjust to their needs, you will encounter severe obstacles to your desires. You will meet a lot of competition in seeking your goals, but most people are willing to compromise if you give them the opportunity. If you are wrong, admit it. If you are right, say so diplomatically. By doing so, you will come through with flying colors. No one likes a braggart, and everyone admires a person with the strength of character to admit human failing.

When you have dealt with the need to concede to the rights of others, you can achieve success in such fields as law, management, teaching, writing, drama, public

relations, or any other communicative endeavor. You could also find satisfaction in sports, either as a performer or in related functions. You will win sometimes, but you must learn to be a good sport when you lose.

Many of the points mentioned in relation to social contacts can also be applied to your romantic interests. You tend to be bitter and vindictive when your attentions are not welcomed. Try to be gracious and shrug off the disappointment. Although you may think you want your partner to be submissive, you would lose respect if that were the case. You need someone who will challenge you to demonstrate your maturity and character.

Mercury opposition Mars (Robert Pelletier)

The opposition between Mercury and Mars shows that you have an active mind with limitless resources of intellectual ability. You are restless and impatient to demonstrate your competence whenever you can. But people who feel threatened by your mental superiority will oppose you, and you seem to attract such individuals. You have to resist the tendency to argue when compromise and mutual understanding can achieve more positive results. Unless you make a sincere effort to compromise, you will make matters worse. Refuse to argue when provoked by someone, and then you will be forced to discuss your differences and, it is to be hoped, resolve them. Until you can reach out to people this way, you run the risk of being unpopular. It isn't that you are unable to relate to people, but that you strike them at first as hostile, which makes them defensive. You find fault with everything, as though you were sure of your own perfection. The sign that reads 'Stop, Look and Listen' was probably meant to protect people of your temperament from accidents. Try looking at things from another person's point of view; you might learn a lot. Don't draw any conclusions until you really hear what other people have to say. Your ability to judge will improve remarkably at once.

You have the opportunity to be successful in anything you choose, although you may miss it by assuming that you know all the answers. Start with the premise that you know nothing; and then begin to learn from every resource available. You will endear yourself to persons in authority, you may be very helpful to you. Play dumb if necessary, and become really informed where it counts. You can never know too much.

You may be attracted to such occupations as public relations, counseling, education, or even acting. You don't lack any talent in communicating freely; you simply have to learn to voice your opinions more moderately and discard the brutal technique. Don't speak up in your own defence unless you are truly being challenged. To do so is a waste of time and effort that could be used more constructively.

Be diplomatic at all times in your contacts and dealings. You cannot afford to allow enmity to develop between you and people who may prove useful to you later. Above all be very careful about your language. Profanity only cuts off the lines of communication between you and others; resorting to it shows you are fighting a losing battle.

Mercury square or opposition Mars (Karen Hamaker-Zondag)

With the tense aspects, greater care is required, because it may be difficult to coordinate Mercury's outgoingness with the combative egoism of Mars.

When this individual is conversing with others, he or she strikes them not only as very alert and very subtle, but also as rather too sharp and aggressive, and this can

arouse antagonism. It is hard for this person to exercise restraint during discussions and, when attacked, he or she easily loses the temper; so these aspects present one or two problems, but the latter can be solved if the individual will accept that there is usually something to be said for the other person's point of view.

Mentally, this individual can perform outstandingly well under high pressure, but runs the risk of overstrain during more peaceful periods because he or she seems unable to switch off. The tension makes the person cross and irritable, or even rude. He or she is also tempted to think a lot of self and to put self in the foreground in thought and deed. by thrusting others to one side (often quite unintentionally), he or she creates awkward situations. For example, this type easily adopts what others have said or written, if it happens to appeal to him or her; the material may be presented as if it emanated from him- or herself.

The biggest problem in the hard aspects is the lack of balance between quicksilver Mercury and hasty, hot-headed Mars. Not only can this encourage one to behave unwisely in dealings with others; it can also make one rash and prone to accidents or near-accidents.

Mercury square Mars (Betty Lundsted)

This aspect is the symbol of a quick mind that is often improperly used. The square brings tremendous creative ability, but the creativity won't manifest until the anger and tendency toward being judgemental is channeled. The mind functions on several levels at once. People with the Mars-Mercury square see a lack of communication in childhood between the parents, and much in the family situation is not discussed. There are endless misunderstandings, and the child thinks that misunderstandings are normal aspects of adult behavior.

These individuals grow up jumping to conclusions. When knowledge or information is presented to them in a manner they disapprove of, they won't listen. They judge the veracity and capability of others on how they look; if one doesn't have the right credentials, they won't listen to more than three words of conversation. These people would put down 'God' if it wasn't dressed right. They can go off half-cocked before they have heard the whole case for the opposition. They cause problems in their relationships and careers because they don't listen. The problem can be overcome, if they learn to develop a sense of humor and a bit of humility.

Mercury opposition Mars (Betty Lundsted)

Words pop out of the mouth, and, in spite of himself, this individual has said something he could have held in. This aspect has the power of the conjunction and the square, but it's easier to learn how to handle. The compromise will be indicated by the signs in which the opposition takes place.

Mercury square or opposition Mars (Charles Carter)

These contacts have a bad name among astrologers. They are certainly very frequently found in cases of crime and of insanity - indeed, it is probably that they are more frequently present in these classes of nativity than they are absent. But in judging their effects care must be taken to consider the other factors that may modify these evil results. For example, good sign-position or the intermingled rays of benefic planets. In regard to the latter, even bad aspects are better than none.

The general effect of the combination is to increase the mental energies, sometimes to the extent of causing danger of mental or nervous breakdown. With their exercise

much of the Martian influence is mixed, so that the native is either combative, fault-finding, and self-opiniated himself, or he encounters the opposition of others who possess that character. It must be agreed that usually the former condition is the nearer to actuality, for aspects of Mercury seldom fail to affect the native's own disposition.

If the chart as a whole is benevolent, then the native will attack what he conceives to be abuses, but if it is of a malevolent type, then he will assail others out of either greed or ill-nature. As a rule, the combination is not acquisitive in the way that Mercury-Saturn can be, but it has the name of being a thief, and writers with it are sometimes plagiarists.

In some cases it attacks the nerves, and makes a person irritable in the way that nervous people commonly are. The temper is seldom of the best, and the native is rarely a favourite, for the tongue is sharp and not always controlled. There is an element of ill-nature and a tendency to backbite. In children, there is often impertinence and rudeness. Adults are sometimes unnecessarily outspoken and rough-tongued; sometimes it goes with the type that affects to consider politeness a form of hypocrisy, a vice to which this combination is but little prone. In low types of charts, it may indicate 'pure cussedness' or the spirit of unvarying contrariety.

It is rarely if ever lacking in intelligence, but rather tends to fail in using its brains sensibly and advantageously.

It is not good for the native's children, who are usually few in number and subject to dangers. Very often there is childlessness.

From the standpoint of moral character, the most needful lesson is, as a rule, to learn to appreciate the values of opinions and types of character different from one's own; and to realise that we are all sometimes mistaken.

Natal Mercury quincunx Mars

(Robert Pelletier)

With Mercury inconjunct Mars, what you know is distorted by the way you use it. You are extremely well-informed in many matters but lack the judgement to apply this information for the best results. After you take on responsibilities that may not be yours, you complain bitterly that you have no time for yourself. You want to be approved and considered competent by the people you serve, but oftentimes they are unappreciative of your efforts. It would be advisable to make a list of the most important priorities in your life and then strike out each one that does not contribute to your own benefit. The remaining ones are your most important priorities, which you should apply yourself to. If any time is left after satisfying these, then you can conservatively add those that benefit others. The reason for this is simple; you persecute yourself by assuming you owe so much to others. It is fine to be of service, but you risk being exploited by those whom you serve. When this happens, you naturally feel abused and hurt by their insensitivity.

If you still insist that 'they need me', seek employment with an organisation that exists to satisfy public needs. In this way you can get your anxieties off your chest and earn your living at the same time. Social work, welfare programs, rehabilitation, and therapy are some of the fields that would be satisfying to you and helpful to others.

You run the risk of physical exhaustion unless you discipline yourself to slow down. Your nervous system is sensitive and cannot take continued harassment. A moderate

schedule is essential for your own protection and well-being. You need to get away from your daily routine and enjoy yourself in recreational activities.

Don't underestimate your own worth when you meet people. You tend to indulge the one you feel affection for, but don't let that person force you to prove your love. Not only will you learn to dislike your partner, you will also hate yourself for it. A hard worker, you need someone who shares your desire to succeed and who is willing to contribute on an equal basis for your mutual benefit.

(Karen Hamaker-Zondag)

In the inconjunct between Mars and Mercury, we think along a certain line but our activities run along a line so completely different that we end up not doing what we said we would. Naturally, others find this extremely irritating.

With this difficult aspect, we seem to fling advice to the winds: it is as if the world in which we live and act is not the same as the one in which we think and speak. And yet we may quite possibly imagine that we are, in fact, following the advice given us.

As in every other inconjunct, the tension causes a latent feeling of discomfort. Seeing that Mercury and Mars are involved, there can be unusual irritation, nerviness and mental aggression. Before we know it, we are crossing swords with someone or venturing rash opinions. Obviously, this is no help to personal relationships.

When standing up for ourselves (Mars), the hidden conflict with our ability to look at facts clearly and objectively (Mercury) plays us false, and our reactions are too subjective and ill-considered. And when we want to talk and think, the impulse to assert ourselves gets in the way. If we learn to apply conscious control so that the two energies do not frustrate one another, we shall be able to profit by our natural acumen and academic abilities.

(Betty Lundsted)

This aspect always causes a strain to take place between the words and the deeds. Using the keywords of the planets and signs involved in this aspect, the strain can be understood and alleviated.

Natal Mercury conjunct Jupiter

(Robert Pelletier)

The conjunction of Mercury and Jupiter shows that you have excellent reasoning ability and the enthusiasm to remain interested in whatever gains your attention. You have an insatiable appetite for knowledge, and your mind is a treasure chest of information. Communication is your greatest talent, and you express your opinions positively. Because you insist on always finding out the truth, you are sure of yourself and of what you know. You develop your creative ideas cleverly and with extraordinary ingenuity. You have much inspiration to draw on as you exploit your creative potentials.

Early in life, you began asking questions and would not be silenced until you had the answers. This curiosity has continued and will be active as long as you live. Each answer you get opens broad vistas of still more unanswered questions. Suffice it to say that your whole life is a process of learning about everything, old and new. You are flexible enough to revise your thinking when new evidence suggests that you should. Although you study the past for whatever knowledge can be gained from it,

your primary interest lies in the future.

Your incredible mental capacity can be applied to such fields as education, philosophy, history (modern and ancient), public relations requiring direct communication with people, writing (journalistic and independent), and travel. Eventually, you will be recognized as an authority in your field and respected for your contributions to society.

You must understand the necessity of getting a higher education, if you don't already have it. Education will enable you to make a real contribution; the world will be poorer if deprived of your enormous creative potential.

You may experience some difficulty in focusing on one subject to the exclusion of all others, but don't be too alarmed at this. With self-discipline you can take up several interests at once and pay exclusive attention to any one of them when you choose. Such unique abilities give you the potential for greatness.

You may have some nervous ailment that will require you to detach yourself from your ambitions while you recuperate. Rest is extremely important to you, and this cannot be overemphasized.

(Karen Hamaker-Zondag)

The way of talking and communicating (Mercury) is usually rendered jovial, warm and cordial by a conjunction with Jupiter - but often long-winded, too. We pass on information with enthusiasm and optimism, but make no bones about expressing our own views on it. By and large, we make a favorable impression, so the aspect helps social life.

In the conjunction, Jupiter as the planet of expansion has every opportunity to be expansive. In each of its aspects with Mercury, it broadens the thinking and the faculties of assimilation and imagination; in the case of the conjunction, this carries the risk that we shall read into things more than they contain. Our fantasies can deceive us or, what is more likely, can lead us to exaggerate, and to paint much too rosy a picture of the future whenever we lay plans. What is more, we may rather enjoy telling tall tales.

Jupiter also has to do with vision and judgement-forming. When it is conjunct Mercury, this can make thought and speech fairly opinionated - can make us something of a wiseacre or moralizer.

The need to broaden horizons may express itself literally in travel or metaphorically in study or mental improvement. Often, however, we may simply be satisfied by understanding something; preferably in connection with other things. Our ideas are broadly based but our thinking is a bit slapdash.

The placement is a favorable one for learning ability and powers of assimilation. We need to curb the tendency to be opinionated, but often display great tolerance and friendliness in both contacts and mental approach.

(Betty Lundsted)

If the Jupiter placement is the bridge to higher consciousness, and if Mercury is the messenger of the gods, once this person gets past the overindulgence in words, he will be able to indulge sensibly in ideas. He relates to words and ideas, and he enjoys communicating. The kinds of ideas he's involved with are indicated by the sign

involved in the conjunction. If the energy is not being used well, this may indicate a person who talks profusely.

(Charles Carter)

This is a powerful position, and one that usually causes the native to be considerably above the average of intelligence. Yet I have found it difficult to collect examples of it. perhaps because the people whose nativities are published, who are for the most part either famous or notorious, are unlikely to have this conjunction, for, like the harmonious aspects, it often leads to a quiet and uneventful life - perhaps that of a 'learned recluse'. Probably the native is more original and investigatory than those with the good aspects usually are. There is the same good-nature and kindness, and often there is a definite propensity to philanthropic pursuits.

It brings success of a quiet kind, in all matters coming under the planets, such as religion, law, literature, art, or music. It is said sometimes to be conceited, and not infrequently there is a spice of self-will and stubbornness. It is not favourable for exact thought or patient, detailed work, unless Saturn is also strong.

Mercury trine Jupiter (Robert Pelletier)

Mercury trine Jupiter shows that you have a high level of comprehension, and your inspiration actively provides you with ideas for fulfilling your creative potentials. You have an optimistic and fresh outlook on life, and an explicit belief in your capacity to succeed. You are already a veritable encyclopaedia of information, and merely need some direction for applying it. You are indulgent and sometimes pompous about your knowledge, but you will be criticized if you do nothing with it. There is so much you can accomplish with a minimum of effort that it would be sad indeed if you did not distinguish yourself in some achievement.

Education is especially suited to your talents; but journalism, foreign correspondence, law, or counselling young people and children, are all avenues through which your creative abilities could be expressed. In any of these fields of endeavor, you would rise to prominence quickly. You learn rapidly and retain what you learn, so you would be a valuable asset to any company that hires you.

You are a person of integrity, with high standards of behavior. Because of this, you can win the esteem of persons in high places, who could safely delegate you to represent them. You would handle the opportunity well, for your manners are good, and you can fit in easily with any level of society. Your polish and sophistication do not alienate you from the average person because you never lose the 'common touch'. You are probably sought after to grace important local and state functions, and you are on a first-name basis with important political personalities.

Your breezy manner endears you to a wide circle of friends. You are tolerant of other people's weak moments, knowing that times will eventually straighten things out. You stimulate the best in people, and they are impressed with your kind and affable disposition.

You are an enjoyable partner to the one you love because you have a good sense of humour and enjoy a variety of interests. Life is never boring when you are around, and everyone who knows you delights in your company. Children love you and are comfortable with you, for they know that you don't expect them to behave as adults. You are like a big brother or sister to them.

This combination of planets does not have any negative physical effects. Your general

feeling of well-being comes from being optimistic and not allowing problems to fester in your imagination.

Mercury sextile Jupiter (Robert Pelletier)

Your Mercury sextile to Jupiter indicates that your mind is never at rest. You have a limitless thirst for knowledge and an awesome capacity to accumulate information. But you aren't satisfied with simply being informed; applying your knowledge constructively is as important to you as acquiring it in the first place. You have excellent reasoning ability and keen judgement. Because of your masterful command of language, you can speak and write convincingly. Truth is very important to you, and you will challenge anyone who makes a suspicious-sounding statement. Leaving nothing to chance, you will persist until you discover whether the statements are correct. It truly bothers you when public speakers make irresponsible remarks on a subject about which they are totally misinformed.

Knowledge can be a weapon in the wrong hands, and you are quick to respond when you observe it being used to gain control of people's minds. Temperamentally unable to stand such abuse, you will challenge the right of anyone to take such liberties with the public.

Education, public speaking, public relations, journalism, and writing novels with historical and timely themes - these are some ways you could use your creative resources and inspiration. Even in fields not mentioned above, you could succeed if the essential function were communication of classical knowledge or current information for practical application.

Your desire for knowledge and search for truth will never end. As a teacher, you would inspire your students to seek the heights of their own development.

Travel would be especially broadening for you, for it would help you to understand the differences among national and ethnic origins. You could translate your reactions into a thoughtful essay that would be illuminating to the reader.

While you may not be a fervent member of any organized religious organization, you recognize the importance of believing in something. You allow everyone the liberty of his own beliefs, and you certainly would not try to force your ideology on others.

Mercury trine or sextile Jupiter (Karen Hamaker-Zondag)

Jupiter and Mercury in harmonious aspect widen the interests just as much as they do when conjunct, and make us just as cordial, jovial and enthusiastic when talking to others. With these aspects, we often strike others as being very likeable. What is more, we have a very encouraging style of speaking, because we habitually look on the bright side. With these aspects, we like to be well-informed and to make a synthesis of all the facts and figures we collect. Arriving at a coherent view of things is very important. But, as in all of Jupiter's aspects, there is a measure of self-conceit.

We are naturally rather pedantic, and can become outstanding teachers who are able to impart knowledge with enthusiasm and authority; in everyday intercourse this is not always appreciated, however. Through the lack of resistance from the environment (characteristic of the harmonious aspects) we have less feedback about when we are going too far, and so, not knowing when to hold ourselves in check, we run the risk of appearing unpleasantly cocksure. On the other hand, we can give way generously if need be. That is to say, we are prepared to show tolerance and understanding.

Whatever widens the mental horizons is found here in all its forms: study, travel, multifarious interests - an eye on the future. But because we assimilate facts so effortlessly and because the harmonious aspects are not as energy-packed as they might be, we may be lazy or take things easy because they are going so well. Therefore the full potential of these aspects is not always realized, even though they are very promising.

Mercury trine Jupiter (Betty Lundsted)

This aspect bestows natural talents. The childhood environment of this person is open, progressive, and supportive of him as far as relating is concerned. He feels encouraged by his parents; his mind develops. This person is willing to share knowledge with others. As an adult, sharing thoughts in a relationship will be relatively easy. He enjoys communication and listening to the other person. The most profitable kinds of communication can be diagnosed from the houses and signs involved in the trine.

Because the trine is considered an easy aspect, it may not be noticed since we tend to give more attention to those aspects with which we are forced to struggle. The aspect can be wasted on prolific conversations, procrastination, etc..

Mercury sextile Jupiter (Betty Lundsted)

This indicates a person who is well-born, for the communication in his childhood environment is positive and uplifting. The ability to relate through the power of words (the various media, writing, film) grows with the years and with proper training. A sextile indicates talent that must be developed. This individual has the capacity for being open; he can expand his consciousness using the energy of the sign qualities involved in the aspect.

Mercury square Jupiter (Robert Pelletier)

The square from Mercury to Jupiter shows that there is some discrepancy between your beliefs and the truth. You are eager and enthusiastic to know as much as possible, but you lose interest before you have acquired all the necessary information for practical use. You are impulsive in judgement, and your decisions are often based on insufficient information. You always want to find the easy way out of a dilemma, never wanting to accept responsibility for your actions. The greatest obstacle between you and success is that you expect to start at the top. You lack the self-discipline to apply yourself to your goals and to plan each step along the way. Although you visualize yourself as an informed person at the height of accomplishment, when it is time to plan for that goal you become lazy and sluggish. You've always asked questions in your quest to become a knowledgeable person, but if you don't like the answers, you alter them to suit yourself. You could be called a pathological liar because you don't realize how you have distorted the facts.

Your intentions are not bad; you are only misinformed and lacking incentive. You are sloppy in managing your affairs and unforgivably naive in your dealings with people. You have very little sales resistance, which makes you easy prey for the wily salesman.

Getting an education is your highest priority, and it is your only chance to avoid a lusterless life with endless detours that lead nowhere. When you are trained, you can achieve success in public relations, education, travel, or even writing. Education will help sharpen your judgement and teach you to plan your climb to achievement. You have no other alternative available. However, it might be advisable to postpone your education until you've had an opportunity to feel the abrasive competition of the open

market. It might prove to be the most constructive lesson you ever receive, and could convince you that without training you belong to the masses who have no advantages.

You are likely to suffer from nervous disorders caused by mental anxieties over your life direction and the pain of competition. Frequent rest and avocational pursuits are recommended. You cannot be forced to change your attitude, but it is hoped that you will, for your own benefit.

Mercury opposition Jupiter (Robert Pelletier)

The opposition of Mercury and Jupiter shows that you are inclined to go to extremes in your expectations. You have a fertile imagination and much inspiration, but you may lack the practical sense to use them constructively. You don't like to take on responsibility, assuming you can achieve without diligent application and hard work. Although you are well-informed on many subjects, your opinions are based on shabby evidence. You alienate people because you strike them as being a 'know-it-all'. You are inattentive to details when making judgements, which forces you to revise your position later. Your sometimes irresponsible statements are inconsistent with your mature mental development. You would do well to become a better listener and thereby gain some wisdom. In your case, silence would surely be golden. If you listen to both sides before jumping to conclusions, you will reap great dividends and win many friends.

You have an insatiable appetite for knowledge and are intensely curious about everything. You must be careful, however, for you may not follow up your initial curiosity, and fragments of information are never a good substitute for the whole story. You need to discipline yourself and resist the tendency to hop from one subject to another, becoming a jack-of-all-trades and a master of none. Once you focus on a specific objective and determine to persist, there is much you can accomplish.

Law, education, writing, and public relations are some of the fields in which you can apply your creative talents and become successful. Aim for objectives that are within the realm of probability. As you reach your goals, redefine and clarify your next ones. In this way, you won't be disappointed at not reaching the moon. You should also plan to continue your education as your level of accomplishment increases. You need to stay abreast of current developments if you want to remain competitive.

Be careful to avoid legal entanglements; you tend to pass over the small print and suffer losses as a result. Get a good and trustworthy attorney to take care of matters that you may not fully understand. You can't afford not to afford his services.

Your personal and romantic relationships are inclined to be a bit untidy. You tend to assume that a friend is seriously interested in you, failing to realize that he or she may be using you only to satisfy selfish desires. Insist on deferring your declaration of love until you can determine your lover's credentials. Unless you are honest with yourself, you will be the victim of insincerity by your associates.

Mercury square or opposition Jupiter (Karen Hamaker-Zondag)

The unbalanced use of hard-aspect energy may make Jupiter too expansive, and the effect of this on voluble Mercury is to produce bragging, conceited talk, opinionatedness and inaccuracy. Taking big risks in Mercurial matters (trade, contacts, traffic) can be another consequence.

But, even with the tense aspects, there is also a great deal of warmth in contacts with others. We like them to share our experiences and thoughts, and we can actively

propagate ideas and become good teachers or advocates. Eager involvement in all sorts of things is a further probable result of these aspects, and, in fact, varied interests can turn out more successfully in some respects than they would have done had we had an easier aspect between the same planets. However, we shall have to overcome a certain amount of opposition because we try to do things at the wrong time and in the wrong way. Also thoughts are restless, even hyperactive, and we are always trying to see connections whether they exist or not.

Quite frequently, we shall find that Mercury, as the objective, ordering factor in our make-up, causes trouble when we enter Jupiter's terrain (expansion, religion and the widening of one's horizon). This can create inner uncertainty about what we are doing, and probably, in order to convince ourselves that we are right, we try to convince others that we are right - a dubious enterprise. We need to be careful about how we word our opinions and about how we offer advice. With these tense aspects, ill-considered or exaggerated reactions run in the blood.

Mercury square Jupiter (Betty Lundsted)

This aspect indicates that the individual is raised in a home where words are not used well, the mood of the childhood environment is somewhat excessive, and people are hurt by words - they aren't supportive of each other. The family finds communication difficult; the family members are more involved in role playing than relating. The child absorbs this attitude and assumes that relationships are normal when words are difficult.

The aspect needs to be worked through if this individual ever wants to truly communicate and share his thoughts and feelings with another person. The power of Jupiter, the ability to expand the consciousness, to receive new ideas, cannot take place when one's words are not received well by others. This person has difficulty talking openly once a relationship has been established. He may not relate honestly, he may not listen, he may not hear what others say, he may even destroy relationships by misquoting what he thinks he heard. The ability to communicate can be learned if he thinks it is important enough. Excessiveness can be curbed and understood, for excessive or angry communication only hurts others. The dilemma can be understood by examining the qualities of the signs involved in the square.

Mercury opposition Jupiter (Betty Lundsted)

This person comes from a childhood in which the family doesn't relate to him. The power of the trine can be developed out of an opposition, but constructive use of the energy will have to be learned - early childhood experience doesn't provide the training.

Friends and opportunities may be lost because of a poor choice of words. The opposition causes a compromise between the relating ability and the need for communication. It can express in an excessive manner - one day relating nicely, the next not, or words can come out in a tirade. The feeling is that if communication is honest (according to the sign Mercury is in) then relationships can't happen. These feelings create inner tensions; eventually, resentments develop because real communication isn't achieved. The aspect is a powerful one. The resentments will go once the individual learns how to express the compromise in a profitable manner. This can be learned once he realizes that he was not shown how to do it by his family. The opposition can be compared to the needs of the Sun archetype and then worked out.

Natal Mercury quincunx Jupiter

(Robert Pelletier)

The inconjunct between your Mercury and Jupiter indicates that you experience some frustration in expressing your creative abilities. Other more pressing matters always seem to force you to defer your personal interests. Everyone seems to bring their problems to you, hoping for a solution. Being generous at heart, you cannot turn them down in their moment of need, and you grant them a greater priority than they merit. Such a feeling of responsibility to others is an overreaction. You may bitterly complain that you never have a moment to yourself, but you do nothing to stop the practice. When you do put someone off, you immediately feel guilty and then revert to your old habits. This can be mentally wearying and cause you to neglect more important personal issues.

You need to isolate yourself from the mainstream of life for a time and get a proper perspective of yourself. Establish priorities in your affairs, and take them up in order of their importance. Don't allow others to make you feel guilty for detaching yourself from them. That would greatly restrict your development. Although you are knowledgeable and well-informed on many subjects, difficulties arise when you try to apply your knowledge. Don't be so willing to listen to people's suggestions 'for your benefit'. You can do without this kind of help. You don't need to compare your efforts with those of others to determine your competence. Your competence is more than adequate, but you must have academic training in order to get a better idea of your potentials. Education alone can give you the assurances you need in order to successfully compete with others in challenging situations. You can become an expert in whatever life direction you choose. Knowing you are skilled will help put your anxieties to rest.

Your talents are suitable for accomplishment in education, travel, or public relations. You can rise to excellence in any of these fields if you apply yourself diligently. You have the necessary temperament for hard work if you know your efforts will prove rewarding.

In your personal and romantic associations, you undersell yourself. You insist on proving yourself to your lover long before it is sure that the relationship will continue. Don't make promises you can't keep just to gain the favor of someone you are attracted to. Sincerity and honesty will pay bigger dividends. Anyone to whom you have to sell yourself must not be very sensitive to your better qualities.

Worrying over matters that cannot be altered should be avoided. Intestinal and digestive problems can result from an overactive and sensitive nervous system.

(Karen Hamaker-Zondag)

As soon as we make contact with others (Mercury), the tendency to be jovial, enthusiastic, and moralistic edges in. For example, we can try to impress others by introducing some new ethical idea, or we can make ourselves out to be very well-informed, or can explicitly or implicitly promise more than we can perform, or can attempt to pass ourselves off as more important than we are. At the same time, we feel vulnerable and insecure, because we are constantly haunted by a feeling that something is wrong somewhere.

When we are occupied with minor matters, with details (Mercury), we feel uneasy because the need for what is big (Jupiter) is secretly in conflict with what we are doing. But, on the other hand, when we are occupied with major matters (Jupiter) and

with plans for the distant future, this troubles us, and the mind (Mercury) has no rest. The upshot is nerviness and mental tension or, sometimes, even physical complaints arising from the inability to relax mentally.

With an inconjunct between Jupiter and Mercury, the powers of expression may be somewhat defective. We omit vital steps in what we are relating, for instance, overemphasizing some things and omitting others. This can lead to misunderstanding or sheer incomprehension on the part of our listeners; which does nothing to help our already shaky self-confidence. However, if only we can understand the reason behind our tension, we may be able to relax and develop the good side of the Mercury / Jupiter inconjunct.

(Betty Lundsted)

Mercury symbolizes the communication abilities, and Jupiter represents the relating principle. The quincunx adds a strain, so the relationships formed may contain some remnants of role playing rather than direct or open competition. Each facet of personality needs expression, and the key that unlocks the condition can be found by examining the house placements and the signs involved.

Natal Mercury conjunct Saturn

(Robert Pelletier)

The conjunction of Mercury to Saturn shows that you are responsible, contemplative, and serious, partly because of your early training. You solve problems logically and waste little time with superficial matters. A veritable storehouse of information, you extract something meaningful from every experience. You are a good listener and cautious about voicing your own opinions in conversation. Rather than indulge in fanciful dreams, you prefer to apply yourself to goals that are well within your reach. You are sometimes pessimistic and may become severely depressed when you face reversals.

Your professional interests could be in mathematics, drafting, engineering, architecture, teaching, or politics. In fact, there is a wide range of occupations in which you could be successful. However, you will lose interest in your job if it doesn't make demands on your talents. But if you know your own efforts are appreciated, you will make enormous contributions. As you tend to be a loner, you will work better if you can set your own pace. Generally you would rather work alone because you are irritated by distraction from associates. Your employer will always get his money's worth because you are honest and sincere and insist on fulfilling your part of the contract. You don't expect to get something for nothing.

Though you are intellectually capable and reasonably ambitious, recognition of your abilities may be delayed or overshadowed by your gregarious competitors. Be especially careful not to let your co-workers pick your brains; you are so eager to demonstrate how things would be done that you unwittingly divulge information that you should keep in reserve. However, don't be afraid to speak up when you have a good idea. If you are shy, get someone you trust to present it for you.

Because of your air of indifference, people may think that you are not interested in social contacts. Actually, you are usually engrossed in deep thought triggered by something said earlier. You may be absent-minded at times. Even in a large gathering, you may become so dissociated that others do not realize you are there; nor do you.

You need to be able to confide in someone close to you whom you can trust. Your romantic interests are stimulated by a person who is mature, honest, sincere, and responsible. Tradition and custom represent security to you, and you respect them. Your religious beliefs are probably the same as your parents' and reflect your childhood training. You resist change unless it can be proven to be an improvement over the past.

Unless you take time to unwind often, you will invite tension. Take frequent 'little vacations' and just waste time doing nothing productive. Try to look at the bright side and learn to laugh at your own mistakes. It is essential to avoid becoming morbidly obsessed with the big, important issues.

(Karen Hamaker-Zondag)

The ponderous Saturn always makes itself felt in our contacts, speech and analyzing. Therefore we hesitate to take the initiative, but play for safety and wait quietly to see how things will turn out. In conversation, we usually seem very calm and matter-of-fact, and it is not easy to make us change our minds. The aspect does not encourage optimism and, indeed, we probably strike others as pessimistic. Quite often we suffer from fits of depression but, every now and then, feel an overcompensating need for entertainment, if only to break out of our inner isolation.

Feelings of loneliness are not foreign to people with a Mercury-Saturn conjunction: they are painfully aware of themselves. Yet, this conjunction has wonderful qualities: it connotes immense powers of concentration and an ability to marshal facts. All research is meticulous - a plus point, even though the motive is to overcome a sense of insecurity.

Because they possess clarity and the ability to think things out straightforwardly and step-by-step, the natives can make good teachers. They inculcate facts carefully, in easily assimilated instalments, and keep strictly to the subject.

With this aspect, we talk like people with a lifetime's experience behind them: but then, after all, Saturn is known as the planet of old age. Also, we are inclined to treat things too seriously and to disapprove of jests. Our thinking is unadventurous and rather conventional. We like to stick to well-known patterns (because this gives security). Therefore, opinions are rather rigid, especially if Saturn is the leading planet. However, if Mercury has more dignitaries than Saturn, there is greater flexibility.

The Saturn conjunction seldom permits mental repose. Even in the most relaxed moments, we lie thinking about next day's work or shopping.

(Betty Lundsted)

This aspect causes the person to feel restricted by the father in some way during childhood. On a subconscious basis, the individual will carry the father's effect into his adult life, for it seems that Dad inhibited the child's expression. It may be that Dad resents the child, or that the child's crying makes him angry. If the mother tries to shush the kid because Dad doesn't like the noise, the child with this aspect will develop an inhibition regarding communicating with his father. This will only happen if the father is angry in the child's presence. Other aspects will confirm the father-child relationship.

Because of the early influence of the father, the child will not respond early to the learning process that takes place in grammar school. He may avoid recitation or

answering a teacher's questions. He may not be able to hear well; there may be some dysfunction, or he may be so tense that he 'can't hear' because of his apprehension. Under pressure, he may not be able to receive instruction or follow directions.

As an adult, words come with difficulty, and he may sound harsh while trying to get his point across. The harshness may be caused by a subconscious fear that any authority figure will reject what he says, so his conversations may be tactless and too much to the point. A great deal of resentment may take place before he feels strong enough to talk about his feelings.

Once the energy is understood, this aspect can be turned into a strongly constructive one, for it gives the ability to follow through on details, to work to the finish, and to seriously express the needs of the self.

(Charles Carter)

This important position runs the gamut from stupidity and inertia, in cases where Saturn overcomes and stifles, so to speak, the action of Mercury, to the careful, methodical type of mind, with, possibly, great powers of taking pains, sustained highly focused concentration, and profound perceptions.

Provided that the remainder of the nativity supplies initiative and energy, this position is good for any post that calls for trouble, prudence, and caution; but of itself it may incline to waste of time and lack of energy, particularly if it be in water, when mental self-confidence may be lacking.

Depression is not uncommon, and there is a propensity to solitary habits. Yet, rather strangely, this position sometimes produces great volubility and a fondness for 'holding forth'. It often makes a good teacher.

Afflictions between these planets are common in cases of suicide, wherein Mercury is also often in a sign of Saturn.

There are often checks in the career, and in some cases there is a failure to fulfil youthful promise. Development is frequently slow and should not be forced, unless, as is sometimes the case, there is a tendency to procrastination.

There is often a good deal of self-will and obstinacy, and something of the type that argues to justify itself at all costs and will never admit its mistakes - this is common if Aries is also heavily tenanted. On the other hand, this same tenacity, when directed reasonably, makes a very excellent fighter in adverse circumstances.

Natal Mercury square / opposition Saturn

Mercury square Saturn (Robert Pelletier)

The square from Mercury to Saturn indicates that your early conditioning has inhibited you from using your imagination in exploiting your potentials. Somewhat traditional in your thinking, you find it difficult to stay in the mainstream of current ideas or develop new ideas. You may be narrow-minded in your opinions because you fear change and the insecurity it represents to you.

In school, you were slow to learn because it required so much effort. You felt you were being punished because you were expected to maintain your grades. It's not that you are incapable, but rather indolent and mentally lazy. When you don't succeed with a minimum of effort, you quickly become depressed. The result is a lack of

enthusiasm in developing your creative potentials. Your conservative attitude is a liability, because today's society demands personal assertion in order to succeed. Your fear of competition means you cannot prove to yourself that you are capable of meeting challenges. Unless you adjust your thinking to the rapid changes taking place in the world, you will greatly limit your progress.

Once you get over feeling negative about everything, you can make plans to see that your ideas are acted on. This planetary combination gives many advantages. Instead of fear, have courage to accept the obvious. Replace negative thinking with plans which allow you to face your obligations with optimism. Look to the past, of which you are so fond, for the lessons you need to adequately cope with problems of the present and future. You don't really have any alternative if you want to achieve your objectives in life.

You could achieve success in education, science, politics, conservation of natural resources, government science, industrial management, or architecture. As you can see, some of these fields, especially science and education, require that you be willing to accept change. You need only the determination to succeed and the ability to capitalize on your creative potentials in order to rise to prominence in any of these occupations.

Be careful not to sign legal documents without reading the fine print, and avail yourself of legal counsel. You can be vindictive if someone tries to take advantage of you. In your job, you are resentful of authority and complain bitterly when someone else gets the promotion you feel you deserve. You must demonstrate your superiority in order to attract attention. You may just have to try harder than others to succeed or gain recognition.

Try to look at the bright side of life and admit that, if you are having difficulty, perhaps you haven't made as much of a contribution as you could have.

Mercury opposition Saturn (Robert Pelletier)

The opposition from Mercury to Saturn shows that you are strongly opinionated and defensive. You have considerable intellectual ability and can accomplish any goal you set for yourself. You may be inclined to bend the truth in order to get your way with people, but people are more discerning than you realize and often are aware of your deceptions. In this way you will lose friends, which can make you depressed when you are alone. An isolationist to begin with, you alienate your few associates with your criticism and scheming. All this adds up to the fact that you must learn to mind your own business and have respect for the privacy of others. Don't assume that other people think a certain way and then complain because they don't think that way.

Your professional life will be strained unless you can become engrossed in your own affairs and forget what the competition is doing. Becoming skilled and competent in your job will give you the security you need. Some professions to which you can certainly make a significant contribution are: architecture, drafting, science, research, education, politics, government service, conservation of natural resources, and accounting. Many of these are challenging occupations that should command all of your attention and make sufficient demands on your talents. If you apply yourself, you will gain the recognition you deserve as a specialist and expert in your field. Then you will have no fear that anyone can upstage you or exploit your knowledge for their benefit. Don't isolate yourself so much that you don't see other opportunities that may come your way. Stop looking for recognition from your colleagues - your effectiveness should be all the proof you need of your own worth.

If you can occupy yourself with your own affairs, you will not be angered when associates are promoted. You must understand that when you've proved yourself, you too will be considered for promotion.

You should maintain high moral and ethical standards to eliminate possible attacks on your reputation, which could seriously damage your prospects for growth and prosperity. This kind of recognition you can do without.

Always read contracts carefully, or, better still, get the advice of counsel. You can easily miss an important detail that may have serious repercussions later. Don't say yes when you mean no just because your schemes will be more successful if you agree. In general, if you keep all your affairs in order, you will reduce the chances of having troublesome complications that only divert you from your objectives.

Mercury square or opposition Saturn (Karen Hamaker-Zondag)

The tense aspects between these two planets give a fairly gloomy cast to the mind. When we start considering anything (mercury), we come into conflict with the need to qualify, limit and define. In the worst case, this can mean narrow-mindedness, and mistrust of everything we meet. But there are other possibilities. Anxiety, caution, careful verification and even timidity are almost bound to play a part in ordinary contacts and also in our thinking. One thing is certain: we are never going to rush things. We are serious, prudent, calm and collected, and will often reflect on what others say - not to be guided by it, but in order to work out what lies behind it. We want to know every detail so that we do not have to reveal how uncertain we are over relationships and contacts. Others do not find us easy to get on with. We are not spontaneous but rather inhibited and, sometimes by way of overcompensation, argumentative and domineering in our talk. Sometimes we seem like an immovable block of concrete and seem determined to look on the dark side of everything.

Although these two planets are at cross-purposes here, the confrontations they cause can be instructive to us. The energy of the square or opposition helps us to come to terms with them, and, even though the aspects are hard, we can develop many valuable characteristics associated with the combination of Mercury and Saturn: willingness to work hard, a serious and studious nature, practicality, economy, sobriety, and good powers of concentration.

Mercury square Saturn (Betty Lundsted)

This aspect is similar to the conjunction, but with the square the quality of excessiveness is added. The psychological influence of the father (Saturn) impedes the ability to communicate and, therefore, produces adults who find words difficult. They have problems communicating what they want to those around them. During childhood, somehow the father created some block or fear that the child responded to. It brings apprehension regarding self-expression. In order to overcome the aspect, this person will have to work through the block set up years ago because of the relationship with the father. Once that has been accomplished, this person can teach himself to communicate in a sturdy and diplomatic manner. Until the aspect is understood, however, the words may come harshly, or in some authoritarian manner that seems designed to offend the very people he wants to talk with.

This aspect can restrict relationships, for the core of any relationship is the sharing of one's thoughts and feelings. Mercury rules the mind, the thoughts, the ability to express one's thoughts to others, the ability to hear what is being said. When a father feels that a child should be seen and not heard, he may have no idea of the limitations

to creative expression that he places on the child born with this aspect. He may have other children whom he raises the same way, but, without this aspect, the other children will not react in the same manner.

Along with turning this energy into constructive expression, this person will have to develop a sense of self-worth. If other aspects in the chart also indicate self-worth problems, he may need to seek therapy in order to transform the energy. Before one can confront authority figures in life, the inner self has to decide it is worth something.

Mercury opposition Saturn (Betty Lundsted)

This person is born into an environment where communication is restricted. The father's influence keeps family members and others from saying what they want; communicating is done carefully. The child will be inhibited by attitudes of coldness or disapproval. Every time he reaches out to talk about how he feels, he is shut off, so he assumes that people always will reject his communications. The father may have difficulty handling the child's teething problems, or one of the childhood illnesses may cause a fretfulness that Dad can't cope with. Perhaps the father can't contend with the child's 'why' stage. At any rate, the child becomes apprehensive about speech, so the grammar school years are difficult; he may avoid recitation, answering questions, or any verbal communication with teachers or authority figures.

As an adult, he may have to learn how to communicate with others; he may have to teach himself no longer to assume that he will be disapproved of by those in authority. If a sense of self-worth hasn't been established, it becomes even more difficult to express feelings. His words are uttered harshly; they seem to offend people. Others feel he is officious, pompous or power-hungry, when in reality he's merely uncomfortable and unsure of himself.

Some compromise must be made so the planetary energies involved in the opposition can be expressed. Once the energy is transformed, the aspect indicates a thorough worker, one who handles details well, one who has a great deal of perseverance.

Natal Mercury quincunx Saturn

(Robert Pelletier)

Mercury inconjunct Saturn shows that you are responsible and serious, but you emphasize these qualities too much, which can make things difficult. Overestimating what people really expect from you, you go to great lengths in their service. In your desire to gain approval from others, you indulge them to the point that they may become annoyed with you. Your willingness to be the 'patsy' for their failings encourages people to lose respect for you. Stop being the willing victim of those who will take all you can give, even if you become mentally exhausted in the process. You seem to have all the symptoms of a confirmed masochist, and this brings out latent sadistic qualities in others.

You will make progress as soon as you stop crucifying yourself for people who are too incompetent to help themselves. Turn your talents to such endeavors as architecture, drafting, engineering, research, science, welfare programs in the service of government, education, teaching, or physical therapy. In these fields you will be able to see rewarding evidence of your efforts. You will still be doing something for others, but you will be free from the harassment that sometimes occurs in personal contact.

Try to establish priorities in your life. Do those things that you know must be done

before doing anything that other people suggest. Learn to say 'no' when asked to donate your time and efforts; you can say that your current obligations don't permit it. In other words, get people off your back, or it will be bowed under the burden. For the most part, such efforts are a useless investment anyway.

Don't look back, because you may be disappointed that you have not yet achieved your objectives. Make a firm resolve to indulge yourself more than you have, but don't indulge in self-pity. Learn from the past and turn over a new leaf.

You should take a good, hard, honest look at yourself. You may not realize that you are talented. Try to detach yourself from the opinions of others, and concern yourself with developing your potentials. In the privacy of your home, try your hand at some craft activity; you will find out how skilled you are. You should also realize that you don't have to be in the shadow of others. At the same time, avoid criticizing people for hurting you; they couldn't have done it without your permission. If you've been hurt, it was probably necessary. This may dramatize the fact that you don't have to win anyone's approval, but you certainly need to confirm your own competence.

(Karen Hamaker-Zondag)

In our contacts, governed by Mercury, we are plagued by all sorts of hidden anxieties. Through this unconscious, yet nonetheless perceptible, fear and uncertainty (Saturn), we are inclined to put a wrong construction on things that are done, and we may deliberately ignore them or be suspicious of them. We are not very good at saying what we mean, and this can cause misunderstandings.

Fear and loneliness invade our thinking, too, and it is not impossible to be troubled by a phobia at some period of our lives.

The awkwardness in making contacts comes in various guises. We may do our level best to ingratiate ourselves with others by sheer hard work, we may become cynical and develop a sarcastic brand of humor, or we may creep into a shell to escape anything on the outside that might hurt us.

Although we can be hard as nails and very disciplined in our thinking, we mistrust staying-power and abilities, and limit ourselves more than necessary. Say there is the chance of promotion; we feel we might not be able to cope, and therefore opt out. If we do decide to take a better job, no-one is more surprised than we are if we make a success of it.

But, once we realize our capacity and lose our diffidence, we can get down to serious work and become real achievers. We may find a gift for form and structure in such diverse fields as economic administration, scientific research, and architecture.

(Betty Lundsted)

This aspect produces a strain involving verbal expression and inhibition. It can manifest in many ways: the Saturn restrictions may indicate some limitation involving the five sense - minor eye, nose, ear, taste or speech problems that are hampering. The causes are indicated by some kind of confusion in the childhood - a confusion that causes the child to respond to authority figures with difficulty. The father influence (Saturn) causes a strain or a frustration (perhaps he silently disapproved of the child).

This aspect denotes a 'private' person because it is difficult for him to communicate his thoughts and feelings to others in a comfortable manner

Natal Mercury conjunct Uranus

(Haydn Paul)

With the harmonious aspects, Uranus tends to work well with Mercury, as both are associated with the mind and intellect, and it is upon that level that their influence and qualities are displayed.

You are likely to have an alert, clever mind which finds great enrichment in pursuing any aspect of human life and knowledge that you are curious about. You are probably articulate and literate too. You have a natural questioning and searching attitude, always looking to increase your personal storehouse of knowledge, and attempting to derive a sense of connectedness synthesising that information into more holistic patterns.

Your immediate response to the world is one of mental exploration, rather than emotional flowing reaction. The world is perceived as an inextinguishable source of fascination, overflowing with a myriad of stimulating facts, theories and beliefs. New horizons beckon, and there seems to be scope to investigate the unusual and the different ways of living on this multi-hued planet. With so much to delve into, so many different paths that you can walk, the problem is that of choice. Where do you start? There is the fear that by choosing Route 1, you could then miss that fascinating experience down Route 66. This could be one of your weaknesses - that you lack the discipline of perseverance, and that your mind may like to flit from one intriguing subject to another that suddenly attracts your attention. Inner continuity may need to be developed, both to improve your ability to concentrate, and to make the best use of your talent for acquiring knowledge in daily life. Or is it just stored on that mental level, unconnected to real living?

You have little patience with ignorance, your own or that of anyone else. You have a compulsion to find out, and will feel restless until you have made some progress. Your mind will store those themes as 'little fascinations', subjects that have picqued your curiosity; and eventually you will have to take steps to satisfy it. You can be a little intolerant with others who have less exploratory minds, and with those who are deceitful in their interpersonal relationships. Certainly you will be best suited to a partner who can complement your searches, and who can stimulate your mind, because for you, that is the essential level of contact. Friendships will develop with others who have affinity interests; and over time you are likely to develop a wide variety of acquaintances as your interests and areas of exploration expand. Unfortunately though, you may find that you also drop older contacts due to your fascination with treading new paths, and thus losing interest in old spheres of enquiry.

You have a preference for looking towards the future, optimistic about new discoveries, even if you are studying past history. You may need to balance an emphasis towards preferring fact, and a more scientific rational approach, with the more intuitive interpretative approaches to life, between the objective and the subjective styles of analysis. The influence of Mercury will be biased towards the former, whereas Uranus will tip towards a more universal, intuitive attitude of inner knowing. It is not what you know, but how you use it in life, which is the key.

(Robert Pelletier)

With Mercury conjunct Uranus, you are bright, articulate, curious, intuitive, and mentally courageous. You are excited by everything you observe, and fascinated by anything different or unusual. Your mind races eagerly as you seek answers to your

questions, because you cannot tolerate the darkness of ignorance.

As a child, you were interested in what made your moving toys operate, and your parents probably never had to worry about keeping you occupied. Your creativity developed early, and you even devised new subjects to explore that further captured your interest in all things.

Truth is an important factor in your life. Consequently, science, philosophy, psychology, and human behavior are fields in which you could succeed, since they deal with seeking answers to problems. In industrial research and development, your inventive ability could be applied with a reasonable guarantee of success. Technical writing might also serve as an avenue of expression for you.

To hold your continued interests, the partner you select must have a similar temperament, or you will be bored. You tend to form platonic relationships with your associates, based on mutual interests. You will quickly sever a relationship with someone who violates the truth in dealing with you.

Futuristic in attitude, you rarely look back at what might have been. You prefer to look forward to what will be, if you have any say in it. The possibilities for your self-expression are limitless, except for the lack of continuity that this combination often creates. If you can learn to isolate yourself and resolve one problem at a time, you will overcome the only liability of this conjunction.

(Karen Hamaker-Zondag)

The swift perceptions of Uranus plus Mercury's powers of expression with tongue and pen can combine to produce the most original ideas and concepts, although they will probably need knocking into a more viable shape. Mental ingenuity is fantastic, but the native is extremely restless and fickle. Uranus being capricious, impulsive and unpredictable may mean that thinking is nervy and tense, so that one jumps from one idea to another - and from one social contact to another, too.

This person is fond of novelty, and homes in on whatever is fresh and unusual. Others can find his or her flow of ideas stimulating, but if they do not keep up with it this individual becomes very impatient.

The disjointedness of Uranus shows itself in conversation. This type is liable to omit significant points; also, he or she may have a sharp tongue, and be apt to make clever and sometimes hurtful remarks. Often, he or she says the most unexpected things; the trouble is, as soon as they occur, he or she blurts them out without regard to the consequences.

Uranus and Mercury both have to do with the nervous system, and their conjunction places a heavy strain on it because there is an inability to relax. The brain is continually active. This can give creative ideas, but can also be exhausting and cause irritability and snappishness.

Some form of technical interest is quite common with this aspect, especially where new ground is being broken or the barriers of distance are being overcome (for instance, in air travel, radar and electronics). Although this type is quick to grasp the essentials of a subject, the mind is often too restless for prolonged concentration. Therefore, he or she may be short of academic qualifications - but definitely not lacking in intelligence.

(Betty Lundsted)

The person born with this conjunction is exposed to an early family atmosphere that includes mental chaos; no-one says anything that makes sense, words are used in all kinds of strange ways, and the child responds to the stimuli. As a result, when these children are admitted to the school system, they are not interested in learning thought patterns or the rituals involved in thorough work habits. As adults, they seem to be erratic and undisciplined.

Communication is unusual. Personal relationships may be difficult because conversation may be erratic or impulsive. In the creative sense, Mercury represents the possible concepts of consciousness. It represents a part of the wisdom-learning process. If Mercury asks the questions and Uranus represents the heights of expanded consciousness, the conjunction combines these energies, and the creative possibilities are enhanced.

If the energy is not properly channeled or trained, it may not operate constructively. When it isn't, the adult may be highly erratic, eccentric or nervous. The combination can create such a quick mentality that the individual appears to be 'flaky'. When this aspect is set off by transit, the individual needs to become involved in some personal creative endeavor so that the energy can be brought into focus. Painting, writing, making pottery or stained glass, or similar activities help the creative energy channel itself.

(Charles Carter)

This is a powerful, self-willed combination, varying from the wayward and stubborn type to the enlightened and talented. Generally speaking, the influence is not exceedingly marked, because the two planets are not dissimilar; but the will-power of Uranus is added to the intellect of Mercury, and there is a more colorful, dramatic, forceful mentality. It is independent, sensitive, proud, and sometimes secretive; but these effects are much modified by the sign occupied. The native almost always lives his own life and resents interference very fiercely.

In undeveloped characters, the influence is not good, and there is often little to show for it except pride and touchiness. Sometimes there is considerable eccentricity and conceit, and talent that cannot be properly utilised because of the native's self-will and lack of adaptability. It is common in the charts of astrologers.

Mercury trine Uranus (Haydn Paul)

The trine aspect tends to add the qualities of creativity and intuition more easily to the characteristics of the conjunction and the sextile. There is a subtle shift from the urge to acquire knowledge as a predominant tendency, to one of being capable of utilising it for the benefit of self and others.

You apply your mind to establishing a firm foundation for future work, where your investigative and research interests are directed towards a clear aim and purpose. Your basic orientation is humanitarian; you prefer to put your talents and energy into spheres that you believe will make a positive contribution to human progress. This could include scientific or medical work, or knowledge communication. You see that the point of knowledge is not just to acquire it, but to use it to improve the quality of life; your inner fascination has a more practical dimension.

There is likely to be an interest in the mysteries of life, and in universal and human behaviour; and a sense of the subtle, intangible energies that animate life. This can

develop into exploring the occult realms; and you will probably gain a personal understanding of their existence if you take that path. Uranus can offer those lightning flashes of holistic insight which cut through the separative analytical mind, giving access to the unitive dimensions. You should be capable of integrating the spiritual perspective into the mundane material world, thus cross-fertilising the levels and forming an inner balance within yourself. If you do choose to venture along the occult path, then your mental foundation pattern of logic and rationality (Mercury energy) can be of considerable use in moving through layers of illusion and spurious belief thought-forms. Bewitched by the glamour of the exotic and mysterious occult worlds, many fall prey to illusion and an unconscious submission to the occult mystery and authority. They fail to apply the conscious logical mind to the teachings, generally accepting them without serious questioning or personal effort to discover the truth for themselves. Certainly, the rational mind does not have all the answers; and its failure is clearly seen in the world today; but a bridge needs to be established between that level and the more universal holistic perception that Uranus offers, so that the two spheres of mind can work together creatively and harmoniously from the wider conscious perspective. This is a major task for the Aquarian Age, and one that we are all asked to participate in by achieving the integration in our lives.

Mercury trine Uranus (Robert Pelletier)

The trine from Mercury to Uranus shows that you have a fertile, intuitive mind, which you express creatively. Your opinions are always based on sound principles, and you speak with conviction. You rarely make superficial statements because your mind does not dwell on trite matters. You seek after the truth, knowing it is the only way you can feel free. And freedom is very important to you.

You understand occult matters and may become involved in some facet of this field as your life's work. Your flashes of intuitive insight are amazingly accurate, and you could excel in the study of psychic phenomena. Mysteries fascinate you, so you might also become proficient in solving problems in the scientific world. You find the human factor equally interesting, and you could master the fields of psychology, philosophy, or social programs.

Although you have carte blanche in deciding what to do with your vast resources in human understanding, teaching should be high on the list. The truth has been revealed to you, and you could communicate it to those who are eager to share in your good fortune. You have leadership ability, but your best choice would be to stimulate others to develop their own. You are way ahead of your time in comprehending matters that usually require many laborious years of study.

Your spiritual values are highly developed and well integrated with your material responsibilities. There is no conflict between your inner and outer lives, since each sustains the other.

You are restless with those who are satisfied with knowledge for its own sake. For you, the only justification for increased knowledge is reaching toward human perfection.

Mercury sextile Uranus (Haydn Paul)

Both the sextile and the trine reflect and continue the themes associated with the conjunction. There is the fluency of an alert intellectual mind, with a dexterity in using both the spoken and the written word which displays your breadth of knowledge, although sometimes you may have to be wary of a glittering superficiality with no real depth to your expression.

As you find knowledge exciting and stimulating, you like to share it with others too. This can lead towards careers where you become a communicator or teacher in some context. As you can develop a genuine understanding of what you study, this can become a viable way of helping others to learn the joys of exploration for themselves. You should ensure that you avoid becoming tired to any form of work which will restrict your mental freedom; such confinement would seem like a prison to you, and your inner tension and frustration would increase, probably having a negative effect upon your health and temper.

Freedom is essential to you; it is life-giving and health-giving to be free within your mind. It is less essential for you to feel free on either the physical or emotional levels, providing that the mind can soar. As your mind will be in a state of 'perpetual motion', you will have to learn how to relax more, find ways of releasing any build-up of inner pressure. Meditation could be a good way of doing this, especially those forms which 'enter the silence', through calming and emptying the mind. Active meditations will only agitate and stimulate you more; but a passive sitting will serve to cleanse and show you how your mind is actually working. The early days of such personal exploration could be difficult for you, but the gradual emerging of a still, calm centre could prove to be of inestimable value in your life, as well as reducing the changes of eventual nervous system problems.

To express yourself fully, you may need to learn a more disciplined approach to ensuring that you complete your chosen projects. There is always the temptation to run after some new, bright object of fascination, forgetting your partially completed plan, and thus never really achieving your objectives. Your life could be a scattering of unrealised schemes; if so, it could be wiser to tidy them up, clarify your objectives, plan a sequential scheme to manifest them, and follow your intention through to completion. Whilst you often hate to look back, there can be unfinished business which deserves to be resolved. Even progressive thinkers need to build on the foundations laid in the past; and if those foundations are badly laid, then no future structure can ever be safely built.

Mercury sextile Uranus (Robert Pelletier)

The sextile between Mercury and Uranus indicates that your intellectual ability is above average. You are impatient with ignorance, but reasonably tolerant of those who cannot learn at your pace. You are extremely alert, curious, and well-read on many subjects. Your easy way with words never ceases to fascinate your audience. You are not selfish with your knowledge, being willing to share it with anyone who shows a genuine interest. Your parents were probably amazed at your mental development, which was more advanced than the average child's. As you grew, you continued to astound them by your discussion with adults, which showed genuine comprehension of difficult subjects.

Your professional goals should be in education or any other field in which you would not be mentally confined. Freedom is necessary for you to exploit your knowledge in your own unique, dramatic way and achieve the most effective results. You don't accept traditional methods unless they have been proven. Progressive in your thinking, you respect the past only for the lessons learned from it. You are inventive in finding ways to light the spark of enthusiasm in others so they can recognize their own potentials.

To be successful, you do need the self-discipline of persistence. Establish definite objectives and construct a positive plan for realizing them. Don't postpone your self-expression until you have all the answers, because you never will. It is your obligation

to share what you know when you discover it. New truths will be revealed to you all the years of your life.

It is not easy for you to slow down because your mind is in constant motion. Learn to unwind and relax; there's always tomorrow. Your impatience and excitability can lead to nervous exhaustion.

Mercury trine or sextile Uranus (Karen Hamaker-Zondag)

In the harmonious aspects between Mercury and Uranus, thinking is imaginative and independent but, even here, it is to some extent erratic. Wherever there is the chance to break fresh ground, this person works wonders, but it is not so easy to contend with humdrum everyday life. The latter is experienced as dull and irksome because it offers nothing new and creative or sufficiently original. In fact, in all Mercury / Uranus aspects - even in the harmonious ones - there are impractical people who, although very gifted in a certain field, have little idea how to manage ordinary affairs. Their fellow citizens regard this type as eccentrics who live in a world of their own and want to go their own sweet way. When the aspect is harmonious, these others hardly raise a protest but just let them get on with it.

Any aspect between Uranus and Mercury will make the native inventive, so the combination has a lot of useful potential. But in the harmonious aspects especially this type must learn to persevere and carry projects through to completion, because he or she suffers from a streak of laziness in spite of all the mental activity. So, although what we have here should be an ideal position for original scientific research, Saturn will have to be strong in the chart for anything constructive to be done.

Often there is a keen interest in anything a bit unusual: an interest in certain fringe activities such as astrology, fortune-telling or occultism, or in revolutionary creeds or utopias.

The same sharp tongue and the same liability to overtax the brain are present as in the conjunction and the hard aspects, but not to the same degree.

Mercury square Uranus (Haydn Paul)

The square has several characteristics similar to the opposition. In both we find eccentric thought-patterns, intellectual superiority, the 'know it all' syndrome, and a changeability of mind and emotions which can both confuse and antagonise others.

The main difference with the square's influence is the dominance of the Uranian 'rebel' attitude, which will condition your social expression. Your initial reaction to most social traditions, rules, and beliefs will be a belligerent opposition, even if you hide most of this activity within your own thoughts. A 'rebel of the mind!'.

There are at least two sorts of rebel: those who just oppose, and those who oppose and offer radical solutions to social problems. You are likely to have the tendency to be the 'opposer', as your ideas are often erratic and impractical, lacking in the ability to be easily applied by people in everyday life. This can be frustrating for you; but until you come to better terms with contemporary life, it may be inevitable. Part of this problem is your inability to acquiesce in social rules and accepted ways of behaviour, allied to an innate resistance to authority. You fail to see why you have to live in certain ways, acting and behaving according to a social code of conduct, or thinking within predictable and conventional parameters. You have enough of a sense of freedom to know that life does not have to be the way your parents, teachers,

employers, politicians and priests tell you. So you become an outsider.

Alienation from society can vary in degree; but you may have to be careful that your tendency is not just negative in nature, but possesses a positive creativity for social change. Otherwise it can be just a pose, an image, a self-indulgence, especially when young.

Responsibility and commitment are two characteristics that you need to develop.

You may have to realise that the only person who is responsible for you is yourself! The responsibility for your choices and actions lies with you, no-one else; and it is a foolish denial of personal power to pretend otherwise, or to seek to blame society or someone else for the repercussions of your choices. It is your life; and your choices will determine success or failure, enjoyment or suffering.

Your need for self-assertion and uniqueness often causes you to reject well-intentioned advice, without even serious consideration. You do need to listen more to people, because there is usually something of value there for you. Self-preoccupation blinds and deafens you to much in life; and your obstinate insistence on being right can lead to difficulties which defeat even your own objectives.

Basically, what you are looking for is a personal state of freedom. The freedom to live in a world that suits you; and there can lie the problem. How to move from a restrictive world into liberation? One approach is to transfer the energy flow from opposing 'out there' to beint turned within, to experience fully the contradictions in your nature, accept them and attempt to resolve or rebalance them. Techniques from the humanistic schools of psychotherapy and creative visualisation could prove useful in this act of recreation. The social rebel has to undergo an inner revolution. This may be quite difficult; yet it offers the potential to reorientate the energies that are creating problems in your relationships and simultaneously affecting your enjoyment of life. It is a transference from a negativity to a positivity that is to be the aim. You can create a better world to live in if you apply yourself to transforming that inner conflict. You are intelligent and talented enough to use your potential to build a freer world (via relationships, employment changes, etc.), where yuor choices lead to positive enhancements and increased options for enjoyment. Being frustrated and opposing the world is a waste of time and energy. Determine what sort of life you do want to live; and then find the way to do so; attempting that will absorb your time, energy and commitment in a potentially creative path to your future benefit and for others. Externalise your dream of a new life!

Mercury square Uranus (Robert Pelletier)

With Mercury square Uranus, you are mentally alert, bright, and ingeniously talented. You are also eccentric in your thinking, and your opinions are usually dramatically at odds with prevailing beliefs. You are a rebel with causes that most people find obnoxious or belligerent. In seeking to obtain truth, you often bypass logic. Your extreme impatience with established facts often forces you to create whatever truths require the least commitment from you. The problem is your refusal to accept responsibility for what you say.

Your arrogant 'know-it-all' attitude makes it very difficult for you to succeed at occupations in which rules must be observed. You take rules lightly, and openly protest to the person who constructed them. The first lesson to learn, then, is humility. When you have learned this, you will be readily accepted and will have the opportunity to demonstrate your vast intellectual talent. You can rise to the top in many fields, such as science, education, social sciences, and even politics.

Only time will convince you that it is foolish to project yourself prematurely and run the risk of being discredited. Experience is what you need to sharpen your deductive ability and reward you for using your talents wisely.

Your personal relationships often don't last long, because you are unable to compromise. Often, what you say is not what you really feel, which makes anyone who is emotionally involved with you feel unsure. Problems between you and the one you love aren't easy to resolve. You don't want to give in, yet to obstinately stand firm is completely unrealistic. You are obviously exciting to have around, but perhaps it would be wise to choose someone with a more stable temperament as your lifetime mate.

Try to slow down and maintain a moderate pace if you want to avoid nervous problems. Don't stay keyed-up for prolonged periods.

Mercury opposition Uranus (Haydn Paul)

With this opposition, you are likely to experience conflicts in your social relationships. The problem area will be in how you express yourself in communicating with others, and those inner attitudes which condition that style of communication.

Whilst you will have considerable mental vitality, the difficulty will be in directing this into productive channels. The tendency will be towards an erratic inner activity; the nature of your beliefs, ideals and thought-patterns will be changeable; and the attractions of new stimulation will often tempt you away from completing existing projects. The challenge of the new redirects your energy and interests; and so your commitments and responsibilities may feel like restrictive liabilities.

Despite this erratic pattern of mind, you tend to insist that whatever you say and think is valid, even though only a short time ago you were vehemently declaring an entirely opposite attitude, idea or belief. Obviously, this can lead to interpersonal conflict, as most people prefer dealing with relatively stable and consistent individuals, as it helps to develop trust and continuity. Yet if others challenge you by repeating past statements that you have made and are now contradicting, you tend to take offence, often attempting to deny that you ever did say that. Essentially, your reaction is often to deny all prior expressions of your self, refusing to take any responsibility for them. Having experienced this aspect of your nature, many people will begin to draw away from maintaining a relationship with you, because you seem unreliable and difficult to believe. This in a peculiar way reinforces a tendency in you to see yourself as 'unique and misunderstood, which you often use to justify a rejection of social compromise; and you never admit in any circumstances that you are wrong. You appear to project the belief that you 'know it all', and probably succeed more in deluding yourself that you do than in persuading others of your expert knowledge.

Underlying these more negative styles of expression is a personality which experiences inner confusion and insecurity, yet attempts to hide this by a superficial image of intellectual superiority. Emotionally, there is likely to be immaturity and lack of ease with that level of your nature, and you are unlikely to touch others easily with the warmth of your personality. This lack of sensitivity and responsiveness to the more intangible 'feeling' aspect of human contact often leads to a tactless and blunt expression, where your ignorance of diplomacy can have negative consequences.

How can you resolve or moderate these challenges within your relationships? The first important step is to acknowledge their presence, to admit that you often are this

way. The fact that you may deny them to yourself does not mean that others do not see them clearly. Often, others do see such problem areas, whilst the individual is apparently blind to their existence. They are personal delusions. Being willing to work with people, learning to compromise, and participating as an intellectual equal, will help to moderate these oppositional tendencies. It is a new sense of personal identity that you should attempt to develop, one founded upon the real you, and not the socially projected assertive one that others may react against. It will involve an acceptance of your inner vulnerability, dissolving that peculiar egotistical construction, and ceasing your attempts to impress people. By stopping that process, you may begin to find your centre, resolve certain conflicts, and redirect the flow of the aspect energy towards personal renewal. Certainly, that inner erratic agitation could be more harmonised and adjusted, thus reducing that build-up of nervous tension from which you suffer.

Mercury opposition Uranus

(Robert Pelletier)

The opposition from Mercury to Uranus shows that you have enormous intellectual vitality as well as a genius for incurring the wrath of others. You assume that your opinions are the only valid ones, and you resent it when others challenge them. You have been so accustomed to having your own way that you refuse to compromise, even though peace may be assured if you do. You freely accuse others of error even when the evidence supports them. Unless you can modify this 'know-it-all' attitude, you will alienate yourself from many of your closest associates.

The startling thing is that you should know better than to challenge others, because you see the truth so clearly. No-one can ever really deceive you, so what are you worried about? In fact, you aren't really sure of your competence and need to reassure yourself through conflict with others. But if you don't concede when you are wrong, you may never know where you are failing.

Compromise is your key to success. Science, education, social service, philosophy and psychology are fields in which you can discover who you really are. The contributions you make in these fields will convince you that meeting others halfway guarantees success and establishes your credentials as a true friend to everyone.

You must control your extremely emotional nature and your rejection of facts before you can successfully enter a romantic partnership. You insist that your lover tell you the truth, but then you complain bitterly about it. Strangely, you can be extremely tactless when you 'tell it like it is'.

Your nervous system is probably frayed from the endless abuse of anxiety and irritability. Learn to control your temper and stop while you are ahead. When your nerves are short-circuited, you are the loser.

Mercury square or opposition Uranus (Karen Hamaker-Zondag)

As soon as this type tries to put thoughts into words or tries to make contacts, the urge to be independent and separate almost infallibly interferes. Sharpness, tactlessness and brusqueness make others shrink away. The person with this aspect is the cause of why others react in this way. What is more, the person is so restless and impatient that usually others have no time to listen. This is true of all the Mercury / Uranus aspects but especially of the discordant ones. Other people express themselves far too slowly for this type so, losing patience with what others are trying to say, this type bursts in with some comment of his or her own. This is a major

impediment to good social relations.

Because this type tends to alienate people and yet remains very active and creative mentally, he or she may start weaving unrealistic notions about self and others. To be sure, this person is unable to test the truth of these notions, yet he or she clings to them fanatically. Uranus always encourages people to do their own thing; therefore, with Uranian conflicts, natives experience as much loneliness as with Saturnine conflicts but are less inclined to brood - given their restless inner world, they have no time to sit still all day. Of course, the risk of suffering from overwrought nerves is that much greater, but usually the strain this type is under goes unnoticed unless he or she actually has a breakdown.

There is likely to be a keen interest in borderline subjects such as unorthodox scientific theories, astrology, innovative techniques or social renewal, and this type can invest a good deal of energy in them.

Natal Mercury quincunx Uranus

(Robert Pelletier)

The inconjunct between Mercury and Uranus shows that you endure severe punishment in attempting to serve the world at large. You are an intellectual workhorse, and your serenity is constantly disturbed by the problems of others. You work in hesitant spurts of enthusiasm followed by periods of mental anguish for not completing what you start.

You can effectively channel your self-imposed obligations to your immediate environment and humanity in general by choosing an occupation that deals specifically with these matters. Local social welfare programs, fund-raising for medical research, active medical research, and rehabilitation programs for the mentally deficient are some of the ways this can be done. You have projected yourself toward the abstract future, and your future seems secure, if you can look back without regrets for what you didn't do years ago. You may bear a burden of guilt for not doing what you could for others.

Your attitude is admirable, and you cannot be faulted for the contributions you've made. However, in offering yourself in such dedicated service, you are shortchanging yourself. You owe yourself something too. Until you establish your priorities, you will be at the mercy of people who will find things for you to do, to the point of abusing your generosity.

You will find yourself attracted emotionally to people who serve in similar capacities to your own. Selfish people are quickly assigned to the junkpile in your estimation. But don't be too quick to judge - they may be exercising the restraints that you have failed to exercise.

Your biggest problem is to know when you are extending yourself so far that your health will suffer. Have periodic check-ups to determine whether you are taking more out of yourself than you are replacing. If so, you may be heading for a nervous disorder that could be serious.

(Karen Hamaker-Zondag)

The way in which these people express individuality and originality (Uranus) differs so sharply from the way in which they express a need to analyze, make contacts, and communicate (Mercury) that they feel very ill-at-ease when meeting others.

Whenever they are thinking, reading or handling information, the impatience and changeability of Uranus enter in to distract them.

The covert influence of Uranus makes them communicate quite differently from the way they imagine they are communicating; hence they strike others as unstable and vacillating. And every time they try to express the personality, the underlying agitations shows itself in the way they think about things and in their approach to people.

Sometimes, these people are unapproachable and have no room for any ideas but their own (behaving on such occasions as if they had one of the hard aspects); at other times, they let people discourage their originality and inventiveness. The alternation between these two attitudes leads to a restless search resulting in hypertension and nerviness. Since they are most likely to encounter this problem in everyday life, they are inclined to interest themselves in things that are out of the ordinary in which Uranian qualities can more easily make themselves felt.

Once these people manage to keep uncertainty under control, they can deploy the Uranian qualities of inventiveness and originality to good advantage; even finding security in following a Uranian avocation. Nevertheless, there is always an air of haste and unrest about them. Therefore there is no harm in taking time off every now and then simply to laze around.

(Betty Lundsted)

This aspect brings some form of mental strain. The family members seem to circumlocute when discussing important family matters, and the individual grows to feel disconcerted and unsure of himself. However, the lack of communication is not as obvious as that involved in a square or an opposition. The quincunx brings a nagging dissatisfaction regarding efforts at communication. Once the qualities of the signs involved are understood, it will be easier to channel self-expression.

Natal Mercury conjunct Neptune

(Haydn Paul)

With the Mercury-Neptune contacts, it is the mind level that is primarily sensitised and activated, so that the imaginative quality is emphasised and the main focus of life appreciation is through mental receptivity. The conjunction indicates a channel between the conscious mind and the unconscious mind, and both the energy and information flowing through this conduit need to be carefully integrated if a variety of imbalances and distortions is not to be created.

The faculty of imagination will be highly stimulated and developed, and this will certainly require appropriate channels to be focused on so that other problems of perception are not created. The issue of mental realities is one which can make you unsettled, especially as you can tend to make mistakes in judgement based on misinterpreting facts and suggestive information. You have a mental process that can attempt to re-create experiences into more acceptable forms for personal absorption, a style of selective manipulation which excludes aspects of reality that you refuse to acknowledge. If this process becomes a regular pattern of mental behaviour, then you are liable to create a distinctly personal reality that is a fusion of the real and unreal which can pose additional challenges when it comes to disentangling them. This is often amplified by a tendency to be mentally escapist, avoiding the possibility of any painful experiences and situations by refusing to become involved in things.

Relationships are likely to be characterised by over-idealism of lovers, either through having the mental illusion of a perfect lover that is unlikely to exist, and comparing everyone to this perfect lover and so ensuring that they fail to match up, or by wrapping lovers in over-glamorised ideals, elevating them to a mental pedestal and so ensuring that at some time they will inevitably topple off. Your mental images will be shattered, yet this does not deny the real experiences of disappointment and disillusionment that you will suffer... and continue to suffer unless you become more realistic in your evaluations within intimate relationships. Part of this process can arise from the sense of personal inadequacy that you feel and which you try to alleviate by imitation of others you respect or sometimes through attempts to bask in the glow of reflected glamour by associating with publicly famous people, which allows inner fantasies to develop.

You are likely to have some creative and artistic talent, and your cultural appreciation will be developed. Your ideal type of employment will offer channels for such forms of personal expression, and it may be that you do develop towards writing, arts, photography or film as you have a gift for visual imagination which also has some inner content. Your approach will be intellectual and mentally resonant, rather than more emotionally evocative as with the Moon contacts. Training may be necessary to help draw out these talents, and your main talent may be related to giving an intellectual substance and context to artistic creations, as a critic does, although there you may need to be careful regarding a degree of intolerance in your attitudes.

Another area of life that could be very attractive to you is that of a mental fascination with mystery, romantic illusions, the worlds of psychics, mystics and psychology: the realms of the mind. Because of that close channel between the unconscious mind and conscious mind, you may experience serving as a conscious channel between the two, with information, such as personal examples of telepathic communication or prophetic dreams and visions, being transmitted to the rational mind. If you have properly come to terms with reforging reality into acceptable patterns and have broken free of that impulse, and have a real understanding of how your own psyche functions by integrating the transpersonal planets into a functioning unified consciousness, then moving towards less tangible realms of the mind may be safe for you. However, if those initial steps have not been made, then following your own fascinations into the inner worlds may not be so wise owing to that uncontrolled active imagination, and you could retreat inward to inhabit a nebulous dream world of your own making. So ensure that you carefully evaluate any ideas, impulses and motivations that enter your mind to clarify whether or not they are self-delusory or actual inner guidance. Such discrimination can be difficult to achieve, but it is essential to avoid becoming lost on the inner pathless path.

(Robert Pelletier)

With Mercury conjunct Neptune, your imagination often works overtime. When you state an opinion, your interpretation is likely to be as faulty as the 'facts' on which you base your judgement. Because you are uncomfortable with reality, you often bend the truth into a shape that you can accept. You are extremely sensitive to your environment and intolerant of painful experiences, which you try to escape or withdraw from. It is essential that you find a constructive means for expressing your highly developed and sensitive mentality.

Your profession must give you the opportunity to use your artistic talents. Your appreciation for art in all its forms may enable you to succeed in a field such as writing, acting, or dancing. In these professions, your imagination and rhythmic sense can be applied to advantage. Any occupation you choose will gain your

complete devotion.

You must have training in order to fully capitalize on your creative potentials. An education is absolutely necessary for you to clearly understand the best use of your talents. Mystery, romance, and illusion fascinate you, but be careful that you are not overwhelmed by the desire to use them to escape from reality and responsibility.

Be especially cautious in your romantic relationships in order to avoid unnecessary disappointments. You idealize beyond attainable levels, overdramatizing other people's qualities and underestimating your own. You tend to be influenced by the illusion and glamour of famous or even notorious people. You often imitate the people you admire and may romantically 'cast' yourself in a personal role with them to vicariously enjoy a relationship you've created. You are quite responsive to suggestion and should therefore avoid artificial stimulants.

(Karen Hamaker-Zondag)

These people's manner of communicating and analyzing, of assimilating and arranging facts, is lined with a factor which blurs distinctions and boundaries. Neptune does not give a sharp eye for detail, but does form an entry into the realm of the invisible. In practical terms, this generally means rather chaotic and unsystematic thinking and data-handling; and, quite often, when this type tries to assimilate information, they suffer from interference from unconsciously produced change and confusion. Without realizing it, they can misinterpret information and then garble it. Folk may think they are telling lies but, generally speaking, lapses are not deliberate. The trouble is compounded by the Neptunian love of fantasy, which tempts them to embellish or distort the truth.

The unconfined nature of Neptune enables these people to look behind appearances and to read between the lines. They can tell by the tone of voice if others are trying to hide anything from them. Indeed, with a Mercury / Neptune conjunction, people often know the answer to unspoken questions. Clairvoyance or, at the very least, powers of intuition are possible if the rest of the chart concurs.

With this conjunction, these people live in a separate reality and do not always distinguish between fact and fancy - something that in everyday life is often disadvantageous, but for such things as composing music or writing poetry or prose is very advantageous.

Neptune is not a stable planet; it continually undermines. In company with others, this type can feel very insecure, and runs the risk of identifying with others too readily. Constant changes of mind are a regular feature of the conjunction.

This type needs to beware of taking appearance for reality, and of flattering themselves with false hopes.

(Betty Lundsted)

Mercury indicates the state of mind, the natural interests on the mental plane; Neptune affects the mind with its fantasies, dreams, delusions, etc.. This can be a most creative aspect and it makes for an unusual type person. Neptune can represent the search for the truly spiritual, and Mercury tied to it indicates that the mind may be on some wonderful spiritual search that others don't understand.

Children with this aspect are born into families where a search for some sort of spiritual identity is going on. The search may not seem obvious to the outsider, or

even to the child; but after a thorough investigation, it is discovered that one or both parents have some 'strange' ideas about religion - religious attitudes can be orthodox or unorthodox. Often, the spiritual philosophy is hidden.

The aspect indicates that the mind may be 'clouded'. This child may daydream into maturity. Communication between the parents is nebulous and vague; the child learns to communicate with others the same way. He may not know how to share himself or his ideas with others, for he may live in his mind. In the mundane aspects of day-to-day living, he will communicate strangely; he may start sentences and leave them unfinished, or he may start a sentence in the middle and leave you to figure out the beginning.

However, it is a tremendously creative aspect, for the mind is capable of reaching into the depths and heights of artistic endeavor. The aspect becomes dangerous when the child is born into an environment that doesn't encourage creative thought, for then the energy can use him - and may manifest in various forms of psychic phenomena that are not readily understood. Because of the spirituality of Neptune, this aspect can evince the religious fanatic, one who talks with God, one who hears voices, or one who has frightening prophetic dreams.

Once the energy is used creatively, once the intuitive energy common to the aspect is comprehended, it's a wonderful one to have. Misunderstood, it frightens the person who has it because he doesn't know how to use the energy effectively. The study of the occult, a pursuit of metaphysics, theosophy, religion in some form, will also help the owner to expend his energy constructively. It can be fun.

This appears to be an uncertain influence capable of acting in apparently diverse ways. I have known people with it who were kind, gentle, credulous and idealistic; on the other hand, there are several known cases wherein the native has committed terrible murders. It occurs in several clairvoyant investigators, as to the value of whose work each must form his own opinion.

Probably the root-effect is to sensitise the feelings abnormally, so that the native is subject to delusions and uncontrollable impulses, unless the chart is a strong one, in which case the mind may be of a very high order indeed.

There is often marked musical ability and also a love of, and aptitude for, aquatic pursuits.

Mercury trine Neptune (Haydn Paul)

The trine aspect offers a quite favourable potential, where the energies of Neptune and Mercury work together well, each helping to define and focus the positive and constructive attributes of the other. Similar to the sextile, this aspect is often found within the charts of successful and creative individuals. Making use of the trine's energy will stimulate the unfolding of considerable creativity. The essence of your creative spirit will be evocative imagery, often including meaningful depths and at times an inspirational quality. The way in which you succeed in expressing this could be through art, music, vivid literary creations, poetry, film or photography. Your creativity should possess substance and context, rather than any superficiality.

Communication to others is important to you. You are potentially very effective in transmitting your ideas and intentions, and skilled in the forms in which you clothe your messages. There can be a taste for dramatic presentations, but this is also effective as it ensures that anything you create is noticed by others, and that by grasping their attention you create a situation where some response is evoked. You

have a talent for influencing people's minds by subtle manipulation and perhaps through clever handling of communication media, as you have a natural understanding of the essential motivation patterns of others. This can be amplified by using the Neptunian vibration to emphasise an intuitive or telepathic ability, which sometimes also manifests itself in the guise of prophecy. It may be best not to overdevelop any such tendencies, or to openly publicise them, but to use them quietly and with little fuss in daily life, especially if through your empathic awareness you are able to support and aid others.

There is the potential to have extremely powerful visualisation abilities, that inner picture-making faculty where within the mind you can create images in detail and colour, 'seeing them in the mind's eye'. In a variety of modern spiritual approaches, such an ability is highly valued, and, rightly used, can be a major tool in stimulating lasting spiritual development. Through creative visualisation, you can direct or re-create your life and personality in many ways, and this is a skill and technique that you should explore, through pathworking and exploring inner mindscapes, or perhaps through archetypal figures and mystical symbolism, such as the Arthurian and Grail legends, or the myths of the Greek gods. Pathworking offers the potential to unlock inner doors - even into astrological archetypes - and these are the realms that are ruled by Neptune.

There should be a developed social conscience and awareness, and work in this broad area may appeal, although your sensitivity may not be suitable for a direct involvement with impoverished and problem families. Your contribution may be that of support, or by using your talents to highlight social iniquity. Others recognise your abilities, and you should find that several avenues of expression are available to explore over time. Holding positive and optimistic attitudes helps others to transcend cynicism and lack of application, and so make their own steps of development. Your perspective on life is likely to be balanced, so that trivial and unimportant aspects of life are not invested with excessive reverence; and this works too in your relationships, where the transiency of moods and friction is not over-exaggerated, and only the positive is emphasised. This does not ignore spheres of disharmony, but is always founded on a recognition of the strengths and important values of the relationship, which can then be used to shed a transforming light on any passing difficulties.

There can be a degree of self-sufficiency in you, as you are centred and generally inwardly balanced. Appreciating the richness of your inner life is vital to you, and you tend to need time and space to do that, as well as to manifest that creative ability. One area that you may be effective within is that of public speaking, where you can be very persuasive and your genuine abilities are at least recognised by others even if on occasion they may disagree with your opinions.

Mercury trine Neptune (Robert Pelletier)

With the trine from Mercury to Neptune, you have enormous creative abilities and the inspiration to use them successfully. You communicate effectively, and have a flair for dramatic delivery. Because your intuition is highly developed, you understand what motivate others in their relationships with you. You have an artistic imagination, and the skill to express it well. You are sensitive and intelligent, and prepared to accept your social responsibilities without question.

Because of your talents and temperament, you are much in demand and can succeed in many occupations. Since you adapt easily to your surroundings, you can work creatively in any environment. You are innately tolerant of human imperfection, and do not make excessive demands on others. Your hopeful disposition, even when you

face difficulties, stimulates others to have the same attitude. Your artistic appreciation and creative ability can be expressed in such endeavors as art, music, writing, design, or social functions.

Your social life satisfies your need for a warm and friendly atmosphere. As a speaker, you easily gain your audience's attention. You are persuasive and convincing because you can 'tune in' on what your audience will respond to.

Superficial matters don't clutter your life. You focus on the important issues that have social implications, and tend to ignore other issues. You are ever-hopeful that others will become spiritually responsive to injustices and will make some contribution toward correcting them.

Mercury sextile Neptune (Haydn Paul)

The sextile offers a more fluent and easily flowing contact between Neptune and Mercury than the conjunction, one which can be better expressed in daily life and where the faculty of imagination can be beneficial both to yourself and to others. Neptune adds an emotionally vitalising quality to your mental creations, and to areas where an intuitive insight can sometimes offer surprising solutions to personal dilemmas. There is less evidence of the illusions which are often associated with Neptune contacts, and you help to dispel the build-up of any by having a fairly discursive and evaluative mind which carefully sifts through experience and information and attempts to transform it into usable knowledge. There is likely to be an inherent curiosity at work, able to explore behind appearances and not being susceptible to accepting ideas or people at face value.

This aspect is often found in the charts of successful writers, creative individuals or those involved in media communications, those who have an ability to perceive clearly and broadly, to represent a variety of opinions, attitudes and beliefs, and who have a wide and tolerant perspective on life. The spheres that the creative potential of this aspect can attract you towards include journalism, education, media, art, social programmes and welfare. As there is a natural intelligence, this often implies the pursuit of more advanced knowledge or skills through college / university education. This can tend to lead to associations with others who have an intellectual bias, and those with a developed sense of social responsibility. There are idealistic tendencies within you, but less glamoured than most, and you should ensure that you succeed in maintaining a realistic perspective with your social optimism. Your fertile imagination and keen perception can lead to contributing towards expressions of social change, of alerting the general public to possible or existing social dangers.

Within relationships, you are able to maintain a close and loving partnership and family, and friendships are similarly rich and rewarding, as you are relatively easy to get on with and good company. You have the potential of inspirational qualities, and if these are developed, then you may become a leader or spokesperson for some affinity group, representing it ably. There can be a subtlety to your thinking and strategic planning that some may find surprising, yet it can be carefully evolved to avoid direct confrontational opposition, especially with more powerful social adversaries. The only points that you may need to be wary of are being distracted by others and losing your momentum by following side-tracks. If this happens, it is partly your own fault as you are obviously not clear enough regarding what you intend to do, and you may need to clarify your intentions and aims sufficiently so that such false routes are rarely taken again. These cases apart, you have a lot of scope in taking personal advantage of what this aspect can offer to you.

Mercury sextile Neptune (Robert Pelletier)

The sextile from Mercury to Neptune shows you have a fertile imagination, which you use constantly in your daily life. Your intuitive insight enables you to cope quite easily with difficult problems. In your personal encounters, you are thoughtful and contemplative about your varied experiences. You are eager for knowledge and for the chance to use it to benefit yourself and others. Being aware of the dangers of accepting anything at face value, you generally seek out as many details as possible in order to get at the truth. You have an insatiable curiosity, and because of your ability to interpret events, you gain more from experience than others do.

Your creative potentials permit you to choose from a variety of professions. Journalism, education, medicine, art, music, designing, and social welfare programs are some of the fields in which you could succeed. Others appreciate your skills because of your sympathetic understanding and warmth. Communication in some form should be an integral part of your professional interests. Because you communicate well, people are comfortable in your presence and relate to you freely.

In order to take advantage of your imagination and inspiration, however, you should get a higher education. You are extremely perceptive of the world around you, and with training, your possibilities are unlimited. It is essential to establish your goals early in life and realistically plan a course of action to gain them. You must avoid letting others distract you, for once you digress it isn't easy to start over with the same enthusiasm.

Your personal relationships are usually warm and meaningful. You relate especially to philosophical people who are not preoccupied with material or physical things. Although you are an idealist, you don't really expect anyone to fulfill your image of perfection. You accept those who at least strive for perfection. You are spiritually hopeful and are guided by the realization of your moral and social responsibilities. Mercury square Neptune (Haydn Paul)

This aspect indicates a difficulty with an overactive imagination interfering with rational and logical processes of thought; this can result in self-deception and the construction of a private version of truth and reality. There can be a preference for mental avoidance and for escaping from directly confronting aspects of life that you find unpleasant, such as personal truths and social problems. Sometimes your logic is very circuitous, too personal or abstracted for easy communication to either yourself or others, and, as it often absorbs an imaginative influence, it can veil the truth from sight. You can shy away from accepting responsibilities, domestic, family and marriage ones especially, as you can feel uneasy with your emotions, and this results in you often becoming unreliable with others. There may have been factors in your earlier life that have helped bring this about - childhood or parental relationships which have exacerbated this innate tendency of escapism - but one result has been distorted images on the mental level of your own identity and mind activity, as well as a diminution of personal confidence.

There are steps that you can take to improve matters. The first involves the willingness to face the actual realities of yourself and the world, so that a clarified perspective can be established. A greater integration of Neptunian sensitivity is essential, but in a way that absorbs it into a renewed life rather than as another excuse for escapist tendencies. Following that development, additional progress can be made in reorganising your mind to work down more productive channels of expression. As your self-confidence grows, through constructive self-evaluation and an acknowledgement of the dormant talents associated with the repressed Neptune energy, it will lead to a sequential release of that blocked energy into your life; you should observe that previous restrictions and limitations are dissolving. Do not re-

establish them again, but learn how to take advantage of your assets. Creating a new disciplined structure for your mind may take time and effort, but attempts at training and reprogramming it will draw benefits if persevered with, and may lead towards creative or socially orientated directions. However, to take these later steps may require you to become more clear regarding your aims, and to apply yourself to achieve them one by one. As part of this proposed transformation in you - and of resolving the inner tensions of the square - you may find it more helpful to look towards forms of external expression that have a social dimension and may offer some solution to social problems. In serving others you may discover that your own problems become surprisingly resolved, especially as the personal obsessions of self-preoccupation are dissipated through a redirection of your energy flow.

Whilst you may often have insight into the motivations of others, you need greater clarity in your own nature. Relationships may remain problematical for you until some degree of personal change has been achieved, and you may be advised to be cautious within your emotional commitments. This is basically because of elements of illusion that can afflict you, and that tendency to avoid facing facts that you do not want to see, such as the fundamental that a relationship is not mutually satisfying if you need it to continue. Those dreams of the ideal lover and partner will be present, and it is always difficult not to project these onto others, or use them as comparison markers. Some may take emotional advantage of you, and you may experience that victim syndrome of the Neptunian vibration by falling prey to your own tendencies and the selfish desires of others. Yet as you change, your potential for better and more fulfilling relationships increases as clarity intensifies. As always, the decision to change is yours to take.

Mercury square Neptune (Robert Pelletier)

Mercury square Neptune shows that your imagination often gets in the way of logical thinking. Your fear of responsibility causes problems in both emotional and material affairs. You seem unable to view life realistically and by supposedly logical arguments can convince yourself that an unbearable reality doesn't exist. The resulting distortion further complicates matters so that the truth is completely hidden. You are an escapist, a problem partly caused by your early parental conditioning.

Until you face up to the harsh realities of the world outside, your progress will be limited. Because of your extreme sensitivity, superficial problems become exaggerated. You have talent to express, but you must prepare for occasional setbacks when you expose yourself to competition. The challenge of competition can threaten your success unless you exercise self-control and become more confident. You must train your intellectual abilities in order to gain self-confidence. Be honest with yourself at all times as you develop your capabilities so that you will understand your limitations.

Eventually you can succeed in writing, acting, education, art, or in social programs to benefit others. You must clarify your objectives and learn to focus your attention on one specific thing at a time. This is important: too many interests at once only bring out your weakness under pressure, which will defeat you. Your best bet is to involve yourself in activities that serve other people's needs. Exposure to their problems will help you solve your own self as well.

Be cautious or conservative in your romantic alliances, for your imagination can play tricks on you. If you interpret a person's casual interest as an indication of love, you could be disappointed. Above all, don't make any commitments to others until they establish their sincerity. You are easily victimized by your desire to experience an ideal relationship. Develop your creative talents so that when you are occasionally

alone you are not lonely.

Mercury opposition Neptune (Haydn Paul)

Similar to the square aspect, there are indications of an inability to distinguish clearly between the real and the unreal, and of a blockage for the creative and imaginative faculty. The key to resolving these issues appears to lie in your relationships with others, and especially in those projections from your own psyche that you are overlaying onto the world and thus distorting your own perception and insight.

It is often your own sensitivity and impressionability to environmental influences that causes inner insecurity and fears of over-stretching yourself. There may be an unconscious telepathic ability which transmits to you others' thoughts and motivations, and this can lead to confusion in your relationships, such as at times when they may be saying one thing and you are 'receiving' an entirely contradictory set of impressions on a more subtle level, which you register as a feeling of unease, disquiet and a lack of trust in them. In that context, you find it hard to believe the evidence of your own senses, and this has a direct impact on how you communicate to others. When reality becomes confused and distorted, some respond by imagining conspiracies and enter a paranoid state, and this is a reaction to such intangible senses being operated and distorted by an unintegrated Neptunian imagination.

You are often socially 'touchy', strongly reacting against real or imagined social slights, and this acts as a weak spot in your personality, especially as you lack a strengthening inner confidence. Competition is not your style, although that does not make you immune to the influences of other competitive spirits in your environment, such as those at work who can easily ride roughshod over you in their scramble to reach the top. Sometimes you act as a victim, drawing out such tendencies from others, and then begin to bemoan your fate as they succeed and leave you only with disappointments. Linking your rising star to working closely in employment dog fights may not be advisable. Your own gifts may flower more effectively once you have withdrawn from the employment rat race. Perhaps exploiting latent creative talents may be the key, or entering some form of employment where co-operation is the underlying dynamic may offer you more satisfaction; but as human nature intrudes even there, the only answer may be a detached and sensible self-employment.

Cleansing yourself of deceptive influences is essential, not just those outer influences affecting you, but also that pattern of creating them in your own perception and evaluation. Unrealistic daydreams which are unachievable or never manifested are symptomatic of deception. For example, you create imaginatively high aspirations which because of their 'perfect nature' soar beyond everyone's grasp, yet glitter in their pristine purity. Ultimately there is no real value in self-deception. It is a waste of valuable time and never leads to satisfaction. Perhaps it helps to avoid facing an empty, aching inner void, but that can more profitably be filled by something real, achievable and personally meaningful. Effort is needed. Anyone can dream, millions do, but trying to achieve those dreams at least offers a direction to focus along. False naivety needs to be dropped, as do the fictitious aspects of your life and your approach to self-evaluation. A more straightforward type of communication, inner and outer, will reap benefits and break the stranglehold of illusory deceptions, leading to a greater understanding of your own and others' natures, so that in your own life you move from illusion to reality and increase the quantity of light in the world. Personal 'redemption' is always positive within a larger social context.

Mercury opposition Neptune (Robert Pelletier)

With Mercury opposition Neptune, you are imaginative and creative, and have high aspirations. However, you are easily distracted by people who challenge your efforts to express yourself. In competition, you may even begin to doubt your own abilities. You are naive in many instances and fall victim to the subversive tactics of competitors. Your dreams are unrealistic, and you are unable to accept the abrasions of your experiences with dignity. Defeat may cause you to become paranoid, imagining conspiracies against you. Let others justify themselves to you, and learn to distinguish fact from fiction.

Your professional interests should be accomplished through self-employment. It is too risky for you to work or compete professionally with others. As a creative individual, you can find gainful employment in writing, art, music, or dancing, which do not necessarily involve working with others. Medical research is particularly appropriate for your talents. Also it would give you isolation from the destructive qualities you bring out in others.

With your appreciation of the finer things in life, you need to be free of artificiality in your way of life. You sometimes recoil from challenges because they would disturb the serenity you desire and find so difficult to achieve. You are easily threatened, and your self-confidence is undermined.

Your personal relationships are sure to be unusual because of the variety of individuals who interest you. A constant disbeliever, you are suspicious when anyone claims to love you. You alienate many possible romantic associations because you fear someone may be trying to take advantage of your weaknesses. You could deprive yourself of much happiness if you interpret innocent and sincere gestures as attempts to exploit you.

Make an honest effort to understand human nature, and be willing to make a sincere contribution in serving others.

Natal Mercury quincunx Neptune

(Robert Pelletier)

With Mercury inconjunct Neptune, you feel guilty if you don't respond to outside interests. You make promises you can't keep, and console yourself by saying 'Well, at least I tried'. However, your reasoning is not in keeping with the facts. You create for yourself painful responsibilities that are usually unnecessary. As if determined to persecute yourself, you worry over problems that may never develop and overreact to those that do. You exaggerate the seriousness of your failures, and may even become ill by dwelling on tasks you think others expect you to do.

You are imaginative, inspired, and creative, but find difficulty in expressing these qualities to your complete satisfaction. Your work should give you the opportunity to express your talents. It may be difficult for you to work at the kind of job in which you must meet a schedule. You would probably work best alone, so that you would not have to compare yourself with co-workers. Also, you could set your own pace. Working close to others could produce uncomfortable misunderstandings and make your job very unpleasant. You would gain greater satisfaction from working away from exposure to possible criticism.

You must learn to establish your priorities in order to achieve your goals with as little wasted effort as possible. In your desire to gain approval for your accomplishments, you tend to take on extra tasks. This is where your efficiency suffers. Determine your

precise responsibilities and never offer to do more than these. You cannot spread yourself so thin and expect to accomplish much. Your nervous energy will not tolerate that kind of abuse.

In your personal relationships, too, you can expect others to take advantage of your willingness to do things for them. Your disappointment can be crushing when you discover you've been used. Wait for others to establish their credentials and prove their sincerity toward you. Take frequent rests and try to unwind. The pressure you labor under may be imagined, but the resulting physical exhaustion is not.

(Karen Hamaker-Zondag)

People with the inconjunct between Neptune and Mercury are usually unsure of their contacts. It is hard to form a true picture of either their own behavior or that of others, and they have great difficulty in seeing things for what they are. Therefore, generally without knowing it, they are much influenced by the emotions released in the surroundings. It is not easy to tell what they really feel when they may simply be tuning in to the feelings of those they are with.

These problems often produce an increasing need to withdraw, either into the life of a recluse or else into a private dream world from which others are excluded, a dream world which even they do not recognize as such.

All the same, with this aspect, these types are quick to see where the shoe pinches someone else and may even be gifted with second sight.

When they come to realize that although there is no harm in having a dream world, it is an entirely separate realm governed by its own rules, and that hurt feelings are produced mainly by an unconscious identification with others, they can be more relaxed and find satisfaction in artistic, religious or social activities.

(Betty Lundsted)

The creative or spiritual energy is present with this aspect, but the mind is not as well-ordered as it could be. This person may spend most of the day dreaming and fantasizing about what life could be, or what experience could be. This indicates a person who thinks a great deal but doesn't do anything about his thoughts. An internal argument is taking place, for he feels confused about his creative urges. The energy needs to be channeled, and the person will have to spend time considering profitable thinking.

Natal Mercury conjunct Pluto

(Haydn Paul)

You should have a powerful, penetrating and incisive mind, which is attracted towards delving deeply behind appearances. Whether these are social facades or intellectual theories or philosophies, your innate curiosity will enable you to look beneath the surface. As you tend to see your mind as a resource which you can utilise, you often collect many fragments of information on your searches, which you attempt to collate together into a workable source.

You feel 'at home' in your mind, enjoying applying it to a multitude of challenges and problems, confident in your ability to resolve them or make some kind of sense out of them. Following your natural investigative ability, you have an inner process occurring whereby you attempt to extract meaning from your studies and experience,

hidden meanings that are mostly relevant only to yourself, although some may be of value to a wider audience too. There is a purist streak in your mind which prompts you to take quite an impersonal attitude to people and events, especially attaching a high value to 'truth' over the social games that people play; your directness is likely to stimulate reactions from others.

As usual with the Pluto energy, there will be an unknowable depth and dimension to your mind, with a tendency towards powerfully expressed extremism and assertiveness as you proceed to manifest your objectives. Your ability to concentrate your willpower and sustain it for as long as necessary will aid you in achieving your dreams. Your beliefs and opinions will tend to be fixed; and you will be difficult to shake from any position that you have decided to take, preferring a vigorous expression of your standpoint against any opponents. As you hate to be seen to have a weaker or fallacious argument, you tend to be well-prepared and confident upon any theme that you may be challenged upon; otherwise you have already prepared some way to evade a confrontation if you feel that you could be defeated. There may be a tendency to hold a grudge against any who have opposed you, or who stand in your way; and you will remember them, waiting for a suitable time to settle the scores.

Unnecessary social problems and suffering for people will draw out a sense of aggrieved anger in you, as will social and political hypocrisy. You will tend to respond to these feelings by becoming more involved in reorientating your energies into channels which directly oppose those who appear to be creating or amplifying such problems. You feel that you can contribute towards changing things for the better; and this can lead you towards involvement with radical politics. The nature of your political views will depend on your personal analysis of causes; but in extreme cases may tend towards anarchism. Any tactics of subversion will appeal to the Pluto energy, as will the emphasis upon change and transformation. If the social emphasis of Pluto dominates, then much of your life will be directed by the theme of transformation, social and political.

You will tend to be demanding in your personal relationships, expecting a high quality and strength from any partner. But even though you may attempt to force him or her to submit to you psychologically, it will be much better for you if you fail, for a good relationship needs equality and mutual respect. You often tend to use your persuasive power to influence others to agree with you; but you have to learn more tolerance and a broader understanding of the freedom and rights of others to hold their own views. Ideally your long-term partner should be similar to you in outlook, motivation and interests, because you may tend to turn the relationship into a form of intellectual power struggle, which would probably turn it sour before long if you did not have these in common. The obsessive tone of Pluto may cause some difficulties, both in your mental preoccupations, and in your relationship, especially if you are unaware of this aspect to yourself, which can easily turn you towards being excessively self-centred if unmoderated. The positive side of a relationship is that it can break down such tendencies, and open up the awareness of 'the other'; certainly you should learn to appreciate any relationship as bringing a more expansive quality into your life.

(Robert Pelletier)

The conjunction of Mercury and Pluto shows that your mind is deep, penetrating, and inclined to extremes. You interpret your experiences like a detective reconstructing a crime, looking for hidden meaning in obscure detail. You evaluate matters subjectively, and your psychic sense often reveals clues that are hidden from less sensitive observers. Curious almost to a fault, you go to extremes in gathering the

information you need to solve your problems.

You have a genius for asserting yourself persuasively whenever it seems the only way to accomplish something. You are fearless in pursuing your objective, and others admire your determination and persistence. Once your mind is made up, you don't change it unless the evidence is overwhelming. But because you defend your views so vehemently, people may find your attitude offensive.

You are fascinated by the mysterious and the occult. With your quick observation of details and understanding of their value, you could succeed as an analyst or investigator. Such fields as crime detection, chemistry, research, pathology, or surgery would enable you to apply your skills and potentials constructively. You could become an explorer or a financial analyst and advisor.

You should moderate your anarchistic inclination. Even when you are not actively vindictive toward those who defy you, you nevertheless think revenge. Social injustices are a particular irritant to you, and you could vent your hidden anger by directing your talents toward correcting them. You know how to dramatize situations to gain the attention of people in power so that changes can be made. You could easily become the spokesman for those who lack the courage to speak for themselves. Perhaps politics would give you the leverage to accomplish many worthwhile objectives for yourself and others.

In personal relationships, you are demanding and sometimes extremely intolerant of weaknesses. Although you seek out those who will submit to you, then you are contemptuous of them for doing so. This is the paradox of this planetary combination, and accounts for the difficulty others have in relating to you. The fact is, you admire strength and respect authority, so you challenge others to demonstrate these qualities. Ideally, your mate should be strong and be able to take a position with you so that you could contribute to each other's development and objectives. Sharing goals and motivation would produce a permanent bond between you.

(Karen Hamaker-Zondag)

A need to make contacts, to communicate, to reflect and analyze, and an ability to give factual descriptions (Mercury) is greatly intensified by Pluto. Not only do these people have a compulsive need to get in touch with people, but they may be dogmatic when talking to them. The unconscious power of Pluto builds up such a charge that they impress others as being forcible, and the effect of words is often greater than they can foresee and may create problems within the circle of acquaintances.

Thinking is concentrated too. If they want to know something, they set themselves to research it thoroughly. The same intensity is seen in the way they regard and analyze facts, although here the unconscious power of Pluto may have a distorting effect. Once they make some discovery or form some opinion, they fail to examine it further in the light of reality. It forms their reality, and any facts and figures they gather are intended to support it. They present ideas trenchantly, and can be obstinate and inclined to use their reasoning to 'disprove' every counter-argument.

The forcefulness and intensity of this conjunction can lead to quarrels and differences of opinion. These people hold their ground against all-comers, and actually meet with a great deal of opposition. A sharp tongue is dreaded: they never shrink from confrontations or their consequences. Because of great powers of penetration (Pluto), they often put their finger on an opponent's weak point.

This is an outstanding combination for research work, especially in unexplored fields

or in fields which have long been taboo; all Pluto's aspects have something defiant about them. These natives cannot tolerate being balked, and will not stop until they have bulldozed a road to any matter in which they are interested. With Pluto aspecting Mercury, they persevere until they completely understand (or completely demolish) some topic.

(Betty Lundsted)

If Pluto can be called the symbol of the collective unconscious in the chart - Jung's definition of the intuitive history of the species since time began; that part of ourselves which transmits knowledge over generations; that part of ourselves which combines instincts with conscious development - then this aspect can understandably be a powerful one.

In everyday activities, the person with this aspects doesn't always know what he is talking about, for the words come out before he knows what he is saying. If he uses this energy constructively, he has the beginnings of a great writer, a great social commentator. The childhood experience with the family may be an overwhelming one in terms of communication; words are controlled, or words are used to control others. the power parent is the most controlling influence, unless the aspects indicate otherwise.

For example, when a child is born into a mother-dominated household and Mercury conjuncts Pluto, it can indicate that the father attempts to stay in control, but from a passive controlling point. Passive control can be called the tyranny of the weak, and, if this is the case, the conjunction will have strong or hard aspects to the Sun or Saturn. If so, the child will attempt to control from a passive point as well. The child with this conjunction is controlled and manipulated by his parents, and his investigation of new ideas may be suppressed. When the child becomes an adult, this energy will place limits on relationships because his conversation may not be spontaneous. Manipulation via words can be used in career; copy editors often have this aspect.

Mercury trine Pluto (Haydn Paul)

The energy of the trine aspect can often be too 'rarified' to be fully used, as it is too subtle to be correctly grasped and applied by many people. Its natural affinity tends to be towards higher science or metaphysics, where the interface between mind and reality is explored and understood in terms of consciousness and energy. It relates more to a trained intellect working in spheres of abstract conemplation, or the ocnection between the intuitive flash of direct 'knowing' and the grounding through intellectual earthing in a pragmatic application.

In the everyday world, you will find that your main preoccupation will be with developing the ability to concentrate, to improve the use of your mind and ways of expressing yourself. Unlsex you are able to achieve the higher flights of this aspect, you will have to ground the energy in more mundane concerns, endeavouring to channel it by determined concentration. Otherwise, it tends to fly high and make you a little scatterbrained and mentally undisciplined.

The unknown will fascinate you though, and you will be curious to explore more; but ensure that you are fully grounded before commencing. You are likely to be quite inventive in your ideas, potentially quite creative if you have enough control over your mind to exploit them fully and effectively. The Mercury energy will give you analytical and investigative skills which can be turned to your advantage; but you will have to guard against the tendency to believe that you know it all.

You enjoy the challenge of competition; and you always intend to win. Failure leads you to brood and to scheme your next move; and here the Pluto energy implies manipulation to undermine your challengers; mentally, you can have a ruthless streak that people may not expect. You prefer full involvement and participation in things; you need to be interested enough so that a process of absorption can occur for a full experience; and if this is not happening, then your contribution rapidly dwindles to being less than zero, even becoming negative as you begin to look for ways out to find a new, more promising area to explore. You find it hard to motivate yourself in such a situation.

In personal relationships, you can be a little authoritarian, especially as you believe that you have a clear sense of 'right and wrong' and can become fixed in your attitudes. You are able to penetrate through social appearances into people, to sense their true attitudes and motives. This guides you in life, both to be wary of some, and to work with others whose genuine potential you are able to stimulate. This can lead to an involvement with co-ordinating groups where your energy serves both to stimulate new thinking and to open it out to new insights entering the group, or new ways of applying current ideas in practical application. You can be a little too mentally self-absorbed, and lack the sense of social concern and responsibility that the Pluto energy amplifies in most people who are responding to its lighter side.

Ideally, your personal partners should be basically similar in mind and attitude to yourself. This is because your energy qualities do not mix easily with the opposite and conflicting views, and if you do enter into a relationship with someone of dissimilar views, then much time will be spent in direct confrontation, generally leading to its collapse. You will be willing to pour a lot of energy into a positive partnership, but you will also have high standards and expectations of your mate; choosing wisely is the key, through awareness of your own nature and knowledge of what is compatible with it.

Mercury trine Pluto (Robert Pelletier)

The trine from Mercury to Pluto indicates your ability to concentrate, a fascination for the unknown, creativity, and depth of understanding. These intellectual assets merely need to be developed realistically and used effectively. Your understanding of cause and effect will give you an advantage others lack when you apply your talents to the profession you choose. Your wealth of creative ideas is some guarantee of success, if you exploit it.

Crime detection, medicine, research and development, engineering, analysis, chemistry, pathology, and surgery are some of the occupations that are suitable to your talents. Your financial management skills are excellent. You enjoy the challenge of competition and can take on a heavy burden of responsibility without tiring because you become absorbed by whatever interests you. You always choose a subject that requires complete participation. As a writer, you might write technical papers or mystery stories. Your capabilities are so wide-ranging that you can discuss corporate finances as easily as the mysteries of the occult.

In a personal relationship, you expect a lot from the other person, but you are willing to make a substantial contribution too. You have the inner perception to 'see through' appearances and understand what motivates people. You are alert to the potentials of others, and can stimulate them to use their talents better. You speak with persuasion and authority, and both unschooled and learned people are fascinated by your delivery. You focus on people's needs and their level of comprehension.

Be watchful, though, that you don't provoke resentment by seeming to know all the

answers. Give others the chance to demonstrate their understanding.

Your greatest problem is apathy and lack of interest in important environmental and social issues, where your talents would be of great use. You could be extremely useful in organizing group enterprises. The success of their efforts would be assured, for you can co-ordinate individual talents to meet the most demanding objectives of any group endeavor.

Your methods of pursuing goals are generally within the guidelines of sound personal convictions and ethical standards. You must know that you are capable of many accomplishments and that in realizing them you sweep others along to their goals.

As an avocation, you could indulge in market speculation. In your free time, you might also contribute your talent to youth programs, in which you could offer sound guidelines in marketing, finance, and investment. Without much effort, you can offer your services in many ways to produce substantial benefits.

Mercury sextile Pluto (Haydn Paul)

The nature of your mind will be biased towards intellectualism, and you will be attracted towards the realm of ideas, expressing a creative and questioning curiosity plus the ability to understand the variety of answers that you discover from various sources. Your mind will tend to be analytical; and you are likely to be attracted towards work which involves enquiry, research or teaching. You have the ability to intuit an underlying, synthesising cohesive meaning within the varied knowledge you acquire; and this can be shared with others. Your enthusiastic enquiring nature can stimulate others to search for answers themselves, without total reliance upon 'authorities'. You also tend to acquire considerable information about a large variety of subjects quite easily, retaining it in your memory, so that you can be a repository of entertaining or even important knowledge for the benefit of others.

Your mind will be penetrative and perceptive, often seeing through the appearances of things into their essential components; and new ideas and thinking will certainly hold fascination for you. The fact that you also have a vivid and creative imagination can help you to make new and interesting connections linking your knowledge into new patterns implying new understanding, perceptions and directions.

In your personal relationships, you tend to be straight and direct; and apart from expecting the same from others, you are unlikely to forget any who seem to live by lower standards and choose to be less honest in their contacts with you. Trust and honesty are very important to you; and you require both in any partnership. Basically, you will feel inwardly quite self-assured and secure; and your stability can be used as a support for others in times of trouble. You have an ability to mix naturally with a wide range of people, and value this broadening of contacts, as it serves to increase your storehouse of information. Usually, you are competent in dealing with your personal resources in an effective way, and should have no real difficulty in achieving a reasonable standard of living.

You may have to be wary of the tendency to believe that you are always right in your beliefs, opinions and knowledge; after all, nobody ever is, and you can blind yourself to these as you are quite an effective and fluent communicator who can often dominate an audience. You tend to back up your arguments by what appear to be unassailable facts and evidence, but you should be aware that in today's world, there is often a store of evidence and facts that contradicts your argument. As in most personal expressions, especially of opinions and beliefs, one should leave space within them to allow for change or alteration, to be ready to acknowledge other views

and to be less dogmatic or obsessed by the personal need to be always right.

Mercury sextile Pluto (Robert Pelletier)

The sextile between Mercury and Pluto shows that you have an analytical intellect and can understand the most elusive and obscure subjects. Your comprehension is deep, your perception keen, and you derive more meaning from your experiences than others do. Your pronounced psychic ability is used more often than you are aware. You will gradually become conscious of this faculty and learn to take advantage of it. It is easy for you to find logical explanations for most seemingly mysterious events.

There are many professions in which you could use your abilities. Criminal detection, research, psychological analysis, medicine, chemistry, and teaching are some of the fields suitable to your mental chemistry. In teaching, you would help others to seek the truth and to develop their own perception. As a researcher, you would solve problems readily because you perceive the solution psychically long before you deduce it mechanically. You have an important contribution to make in guiding people, both individually and collectively, as they search for answers.

Courageous in exploring new ideas, you assemble a wealth of information about any subject that interests you. You are reasonably self-disciplined in using your resources effectively. You can easily gain financial assistance for developing your ideas because you present them sincerely and honestly.

Your fertile imagination is especially useful to those in your immediate environment. Social problems that seem to defy solution are suddenly easy to resolve when you examine them and offer your suggestions.

In personal relationships, you expect others to be as sincere as you are. If you find that someone is deceiving you or misrepresenting the facts, you quickly bring it to their attention. You never forget such incidents. Though you are eager to form relationships with others, when your trust is violated you can break it off forever without a single backward glance.

You will look for a partner who can provide mutual trust, sincerity, and open discussion of any problem that develops. The partner must have self-confidence and the ambition to succeed. Handling joint finances is not difficult for you, because you understand the value of money and how to get by on a modest income.

Mercury square Pluto (Haydn Paul)

The square can give you a harshness of temperament and expression, where your direct, blunt style can often create conflict and confrontation between yourself and others. Even though you prefer to reflect yourself as one capable of handling the 'real situation', you tend to lack sensitivity towards possible reactions to your potentially penetrating insights. You rarely 'wrap' them up in socially acceptable packages for consumption, but offer them raw.

Your approach to life has a tendency to be extreme, a little suspicious of others' motives and intentions, secretive about your own, and basically pessimistic in tone. Your behaviour can often be unpredictable and erratic, making it difficult for others to take you for granted, and encouraging them to keep a certain distance away from you. You are a little uneasy with close contact in relationships, taking considerable time to develop a feeling of trust and relative relaxation with partner. There is a tendency to try to manipulate and mould any partner so that he or she conforms to

your point of view; and often your views become intolerant and fixed, allowing little space for flexibility or change to occur naturally.

Sometimes, in an effort to achieve your own will, you rely upon your strong will-power to dominate others. Sometimes this can succeed, but you are equally liable to apply it incorrectly through a lack of proportion and through insensitivity, creating more damage to your aims and others than you intended. Similarly, whilst your choice of expressive style is straight and direct, you often devote much time towards scheming and plotting, which, again, often works to your disadvantage.

In many ways, you project your own shadow qualities onto others, finding it hard to trust them, yet laying plots yourself; it is unlikely that you have any special ability to motivate others or to become a spokesperson for any group, as you are more of a loner. Towards authority you are ambivalent, making use of any power and authority that you may possess at home or work, yet being quite anti-authoritarian if you hold a low opinion of those responsible positions, particularly disliking a role under any domination by others.

Mentally, you require more self-discipline and understanding to make more positive use of your abilities of penetrative insight; in particular, the way in which you present yourself to others may need to be moderated. More control regarding your thoughts and words can help to avoid any controversy and unnecessary conflict with others, and help a redirection of your powers of insight inward, so that you can observe how you are projecting those negative shadow qualities out onto others in the world when these qualities should be being internally transformed and the energies released for positive applications. Potentially, you have the sort of mind to absorb a variety of positive views and arrive at a new synthesis of the essential values hidden within each of them, and then to express a unifying point or common ground from which dialogue can arise to resolve the apparent divisions. Such a talent could be extremely effective and important if the necessary inner changes are undergone and a redirection of your life results; a temporary phase which you may experience is the adoption of whichever view / belief system is currently in the forefront of your attention, but that at least can reveal flexibility and potential attitude change in you. Dissolving fixed barriers is possible; and the potential for change in your lifestyle and relationships sit the main challenge with which Pluto is facing you.

Mercury square Pluto (Robert Pelletier)

The square from Mercury to Pluto indicates that you must learn to concentrate and apply self-discipline in mental pursuits. You find prolonged study painful and demanding, so you may resent anyone who forces you to persist. This was probably more apparent in your early years when schoolwork seemed so laborious. In spite of this, you have the self-determination to accept responsibility, although not under the watchful eye of someone else.

Your manner of speech is penetrating, and you express yourself so harshly that you seem almost insensitive. This arouses bitterness in others. You are undeniably bright and keenly perceptive, but you rarely feel obligated to other people. You are inclined to pessimism. Your behavior is extreme; at one moment you will criticize others with brutal frankness, and the next moment you will show amazing skill in maintaining your poise under pressure. It is truly difficult for people to know how you will react, so some may avoid getting close to you.

Though you are fearless by nature, you demonstrate an incredible lack of common sense in dangerous situations. You take unnecessary risks just to prove to others how courageous you really are. Because of this, you may seek occupations that involve

hazards. You are prone to accidents from equipment that uses or contains pressure, such as heating systems and boilers. Observe all safety precautions in handling them.

Before you decide on any profession, you must develop self-control and responsibility. You are more inclined to make errors in judgement than the average person, especially in handling large sums of money. Avoid getting into debt unless it is absolutely necessary.

You might be interested in such fields as crime detection, research and development, chemistry, pathology or medicine, but you must be prepared to yield to the authority of your teachers. It is essential that you pay attention to detail and work hard to gain the expertise required. Although you prefer to avoid reality, you must live with it. When you realize this, you will begin to grow and develop.

In your immediate environment, you can make enormous contributions to the socially disadvantaged. You are not afraid to speak up and challenge authorities when you learn they have abused their positions of trust. Just be certain you have all the necessary supporting evidence in order to avoid being ridiculed. This would bring out the worst in you and could result in violence.

Although you certainly know better, you sometimes have an obsession to shape other people's lives. You use cunning schemes to gain their submission. Because of your intolerant attitude, you should study human nature and learn how to effectively motivate others.

Mercury opposition Pluto (Haydn Paul)

The energy of the opposition aspect creates considerable inner pressure and tension, mentally and emotionally, and can be difficult to deal with constructively, as a considerable inner change is required before the energy can come under the control of an integrated personality.

Due to the inner agitation and anxiety, your perception of the world and your feelings response to events will be strongly coloured by its activity. This is not necessarily to imply that your interpretation is wrong, but that your experience of it will affect you more deeply and influentially than it would most other people, who could possibly give it more sense of proportion than you can. Basically, the tone of your insight will be pessimistic and essentially depressive, and you will see the world as a place where disorder, pain and problems are rapidly multiplying. Social problems feel personal and real to you, even if your own circumstances do not bring you into personal contact with them. Your sensitivity (or inner receptivity) leads you to see a world in crisis, makes you feel responsible for its problems, and offers little way out for you unless you become involved in efforts to improve matters. It is a 'social conscience writ large and painfully'. The frustrating thing for you is that however effective you are, so much work still needs to be done in the world. You have to accept the fact that you cannot change anything, and that your role is to make your own contribution but not everyone else's.

This sense of impatience in life creates a corresponding vibration in you that expresses itself as a brusque harshness in relating to others. The contradiction is that whilst you intend to improve life and bring harmony into people's relationships, you often create the opposite reaction to your purpose. An interrogatory style in talking to others will create distance; and under pressure of your 'mission' you often lose sight of co-operative relationship with others. You need to learn more compromise and moderation, paying equal attention to the needs and feelings of co-workers or partners. Gain a truer perspective on the conditions of time, and the slowness of

change in the world, and this can help to moderate your impatience at social transformation; it is a long, slow grind against inertia and resistance, often even from those you believe you are helping.

You have high ideals, yet are often lacking in self-confidence over your ability to express them or live up to them; generally, no one can live up to high ideals, so relax a little, create a little space between you and this inner obsession, and devote more time to internalising this energy to transform yourself. What you are is of the highest importance; and by embodying your ideal more fully in yourself, you will be more of a living demonstration of your purpose, and more effective.

It is a difficult tension to live with, this feeling of interrelatedness with the world, a sense of responsibility and direction that you are 'summoned' to give aid to lighten the burden. You have to lighten your own burden first, which will improve the quality of your own life immensely, and bring clarity and perspective into things.

Mercury opposition Pluto (Robert Pelletier)

With your Mercury opposition Pluto, mental and emotional anxiety prevails. You are extremely sensitive to any social problems you observe, and cannot rest until you've made some effort to resolve

them. Everything is in a state of crisis, you feel, until you can gather your forces to solve a problem that you sincerely believe is your responsibility. You are impatient with yourself and others to get things done immediately. You are certainly competent, but you need to be constantly reassured of this, so you project crises in your own life and with the people around you. Moderation and compromise are necessary if you wish to prevent others from breaking off with you.

When challenged, you are emotionally and intellectually arrogant, because you fear that your credibility is being questioned. You tend to draw premature conclusions based only on the obvious aspects of a situation. A more penetrating examination might reveal details that would force you to modify your judgement. You will have to cope with this problem before you can successfully handle your professional interests. Many difficulties will persist with your co-workers, who will not tolerate you unless you change your attitude.

You are suited for such fields as medicine, research, analysis, union activities, chemistry, and teaching. However, you must come to grips with the qualities that make it difficult for others to get along with you. You are extremely argumentative when provoked, and this can interfere with realizing your goals. Learn to mind your own business, and learn to respect the feelings of others. This can help greatly in gaining their co-operation and support when you need it, as everyone does on occasion. Others will appreciate your efforts if you compromise a little.

Finding a suitable mate may not be difficult for you, but you are more likely to keep the mate you find if you will meet your partner halfway in compromise. Your strong ambition and desire for financial security may drive a wedge of dissent between you. If you disagree about important matters, it would be wise to seek guidance from someone who is an authority in such things. Resist the desire to project your ideas onto your partner or to make unacceptable demands. This will alienate your mate as surely as it does your associates.

Ideally, your partner's objectives should be consistent with yours; then you could undertake a co-operative program in which you would support each other.

You can enjoy continuing good health if you will try to do everything in moderation.

Unwind by getting away from the pressure of competition. Your savings are very important, for they will allow you to be less anxious when unexp

Natal Mercury quincunx Pluto

(Robert Pelletier)

Your Mercury inconjunct Pluto denotes an overwhelming sense of responsibility. You have been conditioned to accept all duties that are assigned to you as important tasks for your total development. In your early years, you might have been bitter at times when it seemed you were always selected to perform tasks others would not do. This established a pattern of reaction, and now you unconsciously respond to duties with an obsessive determination to get them finished and out of the way. You may also take on duties assigned to others because you can't differentiate between their responsibilities and your own.

Although you are well qualified to work well in many occupations, you must avoid becoming involved in your co-workers' tasks and learn to mind your own business. With this planetary combination, you are likely to get into disputes if you attempt to interfere with the way others perform their jobs. You have a genius for implicating yourself without realizing it.

Your intellectual capabilities could successfully be used in such endeavors as medicine, research, analysis, chemistry, or crime detection. You have the persistence and determination to stay with a task until every detail has been examined and evaluated, a quality these professions require. Your deductive ability is uncanny, and it is certain that you derive many answers through your psychic sensitivity.

You relate well to other dedicated people, especially if they serve the needs of society. When someone does you a favor, you are appreciative and never fail to return it. You are sincere in your dealings and expect honesty from others. But you are callous and critical to anyone who fails you, and vindictive if your efforts are not appreciated. You are difficult to work for, since you expect nothing less than perfection on the job.

In your ambition to succeed, you should avoid driving yourself too hard. You disregard safe levels of physical effort, which results in nervous irritability. It would be wise to get away periodically from your professional interests to restore the physical resources drained by job demands. You need vitality in order to function efficiently and co-operatively with fellow workers.

To help you unwind, it is advised that you take up an avocation such as a craft, social programs, or working with young people. Direct your abundant energy where it will serve worthwhile goals and be most appreciated. Regardless of what you do, it is essential to have at least one hobby that captures your imagination and uses your enormous creative potential. The important thing is to 'get away', at least in spirit, from your daily routine.

(Karen Hamaker-Zondag)

Whenever we think about facts or discuss them, or make contacts (Mercury), there is a Plutonian tension within us. The need for power and a desire to get to the bottom of everything keep affecting our behavior, and sometimes we act as forcefully as if we had one of the hard aspects. Therefore contacts are likely to prove difficult and we meet with opposition. But on other occasions we are cautious and do not speak our minds for (an unconscious) fear of something terrible happening (confrontation

anxiety). As an overcompensation, we can indulge in manipulation and intrigue from time to time. Also, we do not always tell the facts exactly as they are; a fault due mainly to a deep-rooted lack of understanding of our power needs.

With the inconjunct, we need to be careful what we say and do. What we think and say (Mercury) may not correspond to what we do (Pluto); and because neutral and friendly Mercury is so very different from dark, unfathomable, burrowing, wary, power-hungry Pluto, we are liable to sow confusion wherever we go. Folk do not know what to make of us and may even regard us as dishonest or manipulative, failing to see our own inability to understand ourselves.

Unperceived, we acquire considerable authority, and in our contacts we try to hold the reins in our own hands. Probably we are hard workers, making our presence felt in the personal environment and tending to identify with this environment to some extent. However, the strain in this aspects means that confrontations and hypertension will make their presence felt if we do not slow down in good time. Frequently, with this aspect, we pass through an intense inner change which improves our perception of reality.

(Betty Lundsted)

With this aspect, the unconscious energies work against the mental functions; the mind is not as free to be productive as one might wish. Will the mind be free to explore new ideas or not? Is it ok to be undisciplined? Can one be spontaneously creative? Does one have to maintain control over conversations, or is one weak for not doing so?

The strain or tension caused by this aspect is not as profound as that of the square or opposition, but it can create an atmosphere of mistrust, and the mistrust may be of the self. The energies of the two planets need to be understood so they can merge in order to release the strain, and the energies of the signs involve need to be melded to solve the problem.

Natal Mercury aspecting North Node

(Frances Sakoian and Louis Acker)

Mercury conjunct North Node: Natives with this aspect are able to express ideas acceptable to the culture in which they live at a time when they will receive recognition. (There is nothing so urgent as 'an idea whose time has come'.) Thus they are popular and are considered intellectual leaders. If other factors in the horoscope give a capacity for original thought, the native can be an effective force in bringing important new concepts into acceptance. On the negative side, there is a tendency for the natives to be swept along in the current of popularly held views and to do little original thinking. They are then merely mental children of their time, subject to all its limitations and errors.

Mercury sextile North Node: This configuration gives the ability to plan and communicate in a way that is harmonious with prevailing cultural standards. The natives have a good understanding of the traditions and trends of their society. This gives them an advantage in gaining acceptance of their ideas.

Mercury trine North Node: This configuration gives skill in understanding prevailing social attitudes, trends, and institutions. Consequently, the natives communicate with the public to their advantage. It favors those who work in the mass media - promoters and others who must gain public acceptance for their ideas. Politicians, who deal

with media to reach the public, are especially favored, as are sociologists.

Mercury square North Node: This square creates a situation in which the prevailing attitudes of the society conflict with the natives' mental expression and communication. They cannot project their ideas as they would like, and therefore tend to be misunderstood. Often they meet with social disapproval because they speak out at the wrong time or place. They may be in disagreement with surrounding social patterns.

Mercury opposition North Node: This aspect produces a condition in which the natives' ideas are either behind or ahead of their times. On the positive side, the conjunction can bestow mental originality and independence. Then natives escape the pitfalls of popular opinion. In the long run, if the rest of the map indicates good mental capacity, the native will prove to be correct. On the negative side, the native is forced to proceed alone with his ideas since he cannot gain support for them. He does not speak out at the right time in the right place; and when he does speak, he is not listened to. Consequently, he is sometimes frustrated and feels mentally alone.

(Reinhold Ebertin)

Mercury conjunct North Node: The exchange of ideas, common or joint plans. The desire to exchange ideas and thoughts with other people. The tendency to form associations for the pursuit of joint interests.

Mercury trine or sextile North Node: Sociableness, the desire to exchange ideas and thoughts with other people, the urge to give and also to receive stimulating ideas, intellectual interests. The arrangement of social or business contacts.

Mercury square or opposition North Node: An unsociable disposition, the calculated use of contact and relationship with other people for one's own personal benefit, the inclination to chatter or to gossip. The tendency to make oneself disliked by other people, the disturbance of relationships.

(Bernice Grebner)

Mercury conjunct, trine or sextile North Node: This is a good aspect for an astrologer, especially the trined North Node. It gives good spirits and a cheerful nature. There is a preference for young people. It gives an ability to write or lecture. It is fortunate for expressing the thoughts, as there is a clarity of ideas, especially with the trine or sextile. All aspects to Mercury have psychic value.

Mercury square or opposition North Node: This may make the person suspicious, outspoken, and somewhat tyrannical. It may make the person seem aloof. Basically though, it gives shyness. This may be a clue to serious nervous problems if not handled properly. It is meant to increase the mental energies toward the balancing of the Nodes. There is a tendency to find fault and to exaggerate. Judgement can be poor, so the person may not be good at giving advice. This gives a fluctuation-type mind. When carried to its fullest and best, this exaggerated imagination can give success in the literary field.

(Mohan Koparkar)

Mercury conjunct North Node: This aspect represents one who is bringing down to earth vast intellect from previous life, with the understanding and abilities to distribute it to the surroundings. They often have good communicative talents; and their energies seem to come from some unknown source. During their past life, the

learning process has been at its minimum, along with considerable lack of communication that has instigated the needs and desires in this life to do what they can and have the philosophy to 'learn and let us communicate'. Assistance from brothers and sisters is highly significant in their life; and often it is a mutual exchange on a timely basis. Deeper understanding with them is needed, and will be established as the time goes on, depending upon the rest of the chart.

Mercury trine North Node: This is an intellectually stimulating aspect. Here the person has added depth to their knowledge and communication. They seem to have a good memory and recall ability not only from the recent past but also from the past life(s). Much of their brain power is inherited rather than from learning and cultivation. Their communication and externalization has a magnetic force associated with that which others cannot help but notice. Proper function of the nervous system is noticed in these people, with appropriate reflex actions but sometimes slightly ahead of time.

Mercury square North Node: In this aspect, general intellect and communicativeness is often controlled by a remote switch. They need to communicate in order to feel good; but they are frequently unable to do so for no specific reason. Hidden tensions with brothers / sisters are often seen. These tensions create a psychological problem since early childhood. Their mental brightness is very fluctuating. Depending upon the position of Mercury in the house and sign, one may be brilliant or dumb. Intellectual balance will be achieved in this life by way of controlling the learning intensity. Thus, if the soul has come from a stronger intellectuality from the previous life, this life will slow him down to the normal pace and he will be able to go at a common rate of intellectual growth. On the other hand, if the previous life has been an intellectual chaos, then this will provide substantial self-confidence in the learning and communicative processes and their internalization to that soul.

Mercury opposition North Node: This aspect can produce possible learning difficulties, mental blocks, uncommunicativeness or improper communication. Nervous system, in general, gets affected due to this aspect. Reflex actions are often delayed or distorted. This aspect brings about tremendous inner growth regarding knowledge and wisdom, as the internalization or osmosis is very keen in these individuals. Their body and soul works as a one-way membrane absorbing information from the surrounding sources to be condensed in the package for future use. As a result of his hoarding of knowledge and information by the inner core, they may not necessarily display brilliance, intellectuality and communicativeness.

(Donna van Toen)

Mercury conjunct North Node: A need to share ideas or a motivation to learn leads to growth. Learning can be either active (through doing it yourself) or passive (through receiving information from others) depending on the signs involved. Angular nodes seem to incline more towards active development of growth potential regardless of the signs involved.

Mercury trine North Node: This seems to be very similar to Mercury conjunct North Node. An easy sociability and a need to give as well as receive put growth within close reach.

Mercury sextile North Node: arranging things and socializing can leave little time for personal growth, although often this person contributes to other's growth. Sometimes a one-track mind closes the door to opportunities for growth. Other times growth opportunities are seen as threats to an organized life-style.

Mercury square Nodes: Nodal imbalance can contribute to craftiness or a tendency to use people. Often there's a tendency to chatter away about trivia to distract from the nodal imbalance. In other cases, the square operates much like the Mercury conjunct South Node.

Mercury opposition North Node: Enduring may take the place of growing, since talk or planning can replace action. Pessimism may lead to a feeling that growth is impossible.

(Bruno and Louise Huber)

Mercury conjunct North Node: In the conjunction, the learning function is activated; and development is rapid. According to the placement in sign and house, the native is eager to learn, versatile, and curious, and glad to pursue further development. The powers of expression are above average; friendships are readily formed - and just as readily broken if they impede personal development.

Mercury opposition North Node: In the opposition, Mercury can produce loquacity. The native humors others, has no fixed opinion, and is easily influenced. Depending on the house or sign, he or she can resort to lies born of sensation-seeking and willingness to compromise, and can be landed in unpleasant situations. Arguments employed are far-fetched, and refuge is taken in sophistry.

Natal Mercury conjunct Ascendant

(Robert Pelletier)

Mercury conjunct the Ascendant shows that you are intensely preoccupied with yourself. You probably start your conversation with 'I' more often than most people do, and the word 'me' crops up regularly in your dialogue. This is not such a terrible thing, but it is boring to others. Your mental faculties are well-developed, and for the most part you are bright and witty, so your incessant use of the personal pronoun must be tolerated. Intellectually enthusiastic about every bit of information you receive, you are inclined to burst out with rash statements of opinion when provoked. You pride yourself on how easy it is for you to learn, and may show disdain for anyone who has to concentrate harder. You are mentally impulsive and rarely give anyone the chance to answer your questions. In a crowd, you can dominate the conversation by asking questions that you answer yourself or by posing problems that you immediately solve. An original and creative speaker, you often dramatize what you have to say with a display of acting ability. People are fascinated by your command of language and effective delivery. You are not afraid to speak up when you know you are right, but the fact is that you aren't always right. When your views are criticized, you become indignant and argumentative. You are no shrinking violet, and would rather put up than shut up.

(Karen Hamaker-Zondag)

Mercury on the Ascendant shows a fondness for contacts with the outside world; also a need for continual change and give-and-take. There is great curiosity, and often this makes us early-wise. Mercury is a mobile planet and, when on the Ascendant, gives physical mobility and unrest, sometimes nerviness too, but also considerable manual dexterity. This conjunction, which generally indicates a bright mind, does not necessarily promise great learning capacity, since we find it hard to concentrate. We are at our best when free to chop and change and to do several things at the same time (although the remainder of the chart must be taken into consideration before one can hazard an opinion on the degree of changeability involved).

(Betty Lundsted)

People born with this conjunction are able to put their thoughts into action, for Mercury rules the mind, the ability to communicate. The Ascendant indicates how we start things, and how we function best in career. These may be talkative people, but the energy can be channeled to help them get their point across.

(Sue Tompkins)

The immediate impression that a Mercury conjunct Ascendant individual might make is of being bright, youthful and curious - and very chatty. These people have a very pronounced need to talk, and often to write, especially about their own experiences. All contacts from Mercury to the Ascendant-Descendant axis favour autobiographical writing. As always, the sign placement, other aspects to the configuration, and the houses where Gemini and Virgo are to be found, will all have great bearing on Mercury rising and form part of the overall complex.

People with Mercury rising usually have very strong early issues around siblings and schooling. Exactly what the issues are will be shown by the overall picture. Mercury rising people often immediately talk about their siblings and what those issues are.

With Mercury conjunct either end of the Ascendant-Descendant axis, there is a strong need to communicate with someone else in a one-to-one setting, a need to discuss oneself, and oneself in relation to other people. Lots of people gravitate to therapy situations with these contacts for there is a need to be listened to. It is through verbal interchange with another person that the individual is able to arrive at his or her own position on given subjects.

With all contacts there are often lots of comings and goings and general activity around the individual's birth. A lot of talking is also implied.

People with Mercury rising, and sometimes making other contacts to the Ascendant-Descendant axis generally, often have two or more names which they may be known by simultaneously or at different times. This reflects the general ambidextrous quality of these contacts.

Natal Mercury quincunx Ascendant

(Robert Pelletier)

Mercury inconjunct the Ascendant shows that you try hard to understand the people with whom you are involved. If you have to confront them in a challenging situation, you make a supreme effort to give them the benefit of the doubt. You tend to submit without resistance, assuming that others know more about themselves than you do. More often than not, however, your evaluation and conclusions about people are right, which may make them uncomfortable.

Wanting to win approbation as a sensible person with good reasoning ability, you are crushed when people don't take you seriously and dismiss you with a wave of the hand. You are serious about your continued development and growth. A 'jack-of-all-trades' and master of most of them, you are a good learner and an equally good teacher. You never stop learning, and you strive for excellence in everything you do. Although you may work efficiently, you may talk too much on the job and annoy those working closest to you. You despise being constantly asked what you are doing and why. But you love it when someone needs your help in learning how to do something.

You don't know yourself as well as you know others. You worry over matters that can't be changed, and if someone tries to draw you into a discussion of your shortcomings, you quickly divert the conversation to other topics. Your friends admire you for your talents, and your superiors realize that you have a sharp intellect. There are few questions you can't answer, even though you may not have received a higher education. You like to indulge in nostalgic memories of days past, remembering them with good feelings. Keenly aware of the power of money, you have planned carefully for security in your later years. Pension plans and regular savings are as important to you as earning a living now.

You should take frequent restful vacations to slow down and relax. You are easily keyed up by the pressure of your daily concerns, so you should get away from them periodically.

(Karen Hamaker-Zondag)

The uncertainty of the inconjunct is beyond our control, and it gnaws at us whenever we make contact with the people around us. We are not good at expressing ourselves, and we tend to say things at the wrong moment. This causes trouble, and the reactions of others can make us wonder why we are the way we are. The reason is that our approach (the Ascendant) is so completely different from the way in which we naturally think about things and would like to speak of them to others (Mercury) that we become hesitant and nervous. The stress of the inconjunct is felt in the thought-life, and we find it hard to relax. Quite often, owing to an inner compulsion to think and communicate, we become very proficient at thinking and communicating. But first we have to get down to the root of our unrest.

Natal Mercury conjunct Midheaven

(Robert Hand)

This aspect means that you have a very sharp mind, which you will use to get ahead. Very early in your life, you will learn to look at the world clearly and objectively, and you will learn to communicate in ways that are very advanced for your age. You may or may not become an intellectual when you are older, but you will use your mind continually, always searching for stimulating and exciting experiences. Because you cannot stand boredom, you are sometimes very restless.

Your most important task is to be more disciplined, so that you stick to a task long enough to get some real benefit from it. There is a real danger that your interest in any subject will be shallow.

Another possible problem, which may seem less serious but is actually greater, is that you prefer to deal with the world through your mind rather than your feelings. This will keep you from really being in touch with some experiences in life - such as love and sensitivity to beauty - for which your mind alone is not enough. Also you cannot really get in touch with other people through your mind alone. Unless you develop your emotions along with your mind, you may feel lonely and cut off from others.

With your lively mind, you may enjoy playing practical jokes on people. This is fine if you are careful not to hurt people who are more sensitive than you.

(Karen Hamaker-Zondag)

When the need to communicate, and to isolate and arrange facts, coincides with the

astrological point representing the attitude to society and the self (MC), the individual shall have an ever-shifting conception of self and of social position, especially in the sphere of contacts and intellectual interests. The result can be many different activities, either at the same time or one after the other, or much change within a single sphere of activity. This is closely connected with a rather unstable self-image.

Often this person is good at putting thoughts into words and conveying ideas, and would make a good teacher and / or a keen business person. He or she can easily earn a living in some Mercurial activity, as anything from a reporter to a librarian, from a representative or merchant to an instructor - but he or she must have plenty of variety and personal contacts.

With this conjunction, the person is very restless, sometimes nervy, and is inclined to try and reason things out objectively even when this is not the best method to pursue in a given situation.

(Sue Tompkins)

Mercury aspecting the MC-IC axis suggests that the individual wants public recognition for their communicative skills or their learning. This might be the ultimate goal, what they would like to be remembered for. Mercury conjunct the MC especially sometimes indicates that this is what a parent wanted or pushed for. Sometimes a sibling acts as a parent when Mercury is conjunct the MC or IC. More often, one parent is experienced as being particularly Mercurial in some way. Sometimes the parent is more like a brother or sister than a parent.

(Frances Sakoian and Louis Acker)

Natives with this aspect can impress their superiors with their original thinking and speak and write well. Occupations involved with communication, or the means of communication, such as newspaper work and printing, are favorable for people with this conjunction.

Education is their key to professional success. They make good writers, teachers, researchers, scientists, librarians, secretaries, clerks, and telephone operators. Mercury trine Midheaven (Robert Hand)

Very early in your life, you will begin to think about what you want to do when you are older. To this end, you will work to develop the talents that will help you get ahead. You will do the best you can in school, especially in those subjects that you think will be useful. While you are young, you will discipline yourself to learn the skills you need.

Your parents will influence your opinions very strongly, and they will probably support you in whatever path you choose. It is very likely that you and your parents agree generally and have similar ideas on most subjects. You believe you can learn from the people who are above you, so that one day you can be in their position. This makes you a hardworking person who tries to master all the skills you study.

Later in your life, you may work in some area of communications, science, education or another field that requires mental skill and the ability to communicate clearly.

You are very good at taking care of everything you own, and you prefer possessions that stimulate your mind, such as books and records. You enjoy playing games with others, especially games that teach you something. You may also enjoy writing as a

pastime.

Mercury sextile Midheaven (Robert Hand)

As you go through life, you will be in touch with your own and other people's inner feelings and psychological currents. Your rational mind is more influenced than most by feelings and intuitions, which will deepen your understanding of the world. While you are young, however, it may not be easy to tell people about what you see so clearly. People may think of you as somewhat reserved and secretive. You are not trying to be mysterious, but you have already learned that if you don't choose your words carefully, others will misunderstand you, with some unpleasant results. It will take time before your ability to express yourself catches up with what you already know intuitively.

You may be attracted to mysteries and puzzles, because you like to examine secrets. In fact, you may build up your own secret universe to wander around in, not just for idle play but as a way to express your creative insights.

When you are older, you will use your mind to help you understand human nature. You are a natural psychologist, and later you will be able to communicate your ideas to others through speaking or writing.

You will spend much time planning and arranging your future in your head. Instead of falling into a career by accident, you will work out everything you must do to get where you want to go. You will study hard to achieve your ambition, and you should be a good student in any subject related to this interest.

Mercury trine or sextile Midheaven (Karen Hamaker-Zondag)

This person makes a mark in social life; in job applications, for example, words are well chosen, and the personal discourse creates a good impression. People soon realize that they can hold a sensible conversation with the person with this aspect. Therefore this aspect is very advantageous for professions offering variety and the chance to talk to people in a factual way. Analyzing, another side of Mercury, is something else this individual will enjoy doing; and this gives an aptitude for scientific research, provided it is not restricted and does not call for prolonged concentration on minor details. This individual will prefer to be engaged in classifying large masses of data.

As in the conjunction, the emphasis lies more on mental exchanges with others than on emotional relationships (provided, of course, the water signs are not too prominent).

Mercury trine Midheaven (Frances Sakoian and Louis Acker)

This configuration indicates an unusually close connection between intelligence and professional ambition. It gives the ability to write on subject matter that pertains to the native's profession, and enables him to communicate well with those in authority.

The home is likely to be a place of intellectual endeavor, and probably contains a sizeable library. The natives want to share their intellectual and educational interests with their families as well as using them in their professional work. The configuration promotes harmony, through good communication, between the domestic and professional spheres of life. At times, relatives play a helpful part in both professional and domestic affairs.

Mercury sextile Midheaven (Frances Sakoian and Louis Acker)

This configuration is favorable for the intelligent planning of professional and domestic activities. The natives communicate successfully with people in high positions - their employers or others in authority. Thus, they are able to get people of importance in the world to accept their ideas. At the same time, they are able to communicate with members of their families and to intelligently work toward domestic comfort and harmony. Thus they can work out the proper balance between professional and domestic responsibilities.

Natal Mercury quincunx Midheaven

(Robert Hand)

It is very important for you to develop your mind and your powers of thought, so that you can use them to attain whatever objectives you set for yourself. However, before you can accomplish this, you may have to solve certain problems. You may feel that there is a tension between your natural spontaneous views and what is taught by your parents and other adults. Even though their teachings seem perfectly reasonable, you want to think matters through for yourself. But while you are young, you may not be able to accept your own ideas as valid if they contradict what you have been taught. Yet you cannot simply suppress your own ways of thinking. If you try, you will create tension and probably create a gap between what you are trying to do and what you say. When you are older, you may express this tension by making indiscreet remarks that totally get in the way of your objectives.

Recognize this tension within yourself and try to accept the fact that it exists. At the same time you should look for ways to resolve it by learning how to think what you want to think and still accomplish your objectives. Just make sure as you get older that you set your own objectives rather than fulfilling other people's expectations for you. Otherwise the problem of tension could get worse, and you could wind up very confused.

It is very important that you remember not to speak impulsively. If you do, it is very likely that you will put your foot in your mouth. Consider what you are going to say and how your words can further your objectives.

(Karen Hamaker-Zondag)

The changeability inherent in Mercury / Midheaven aspects is here at its strongest yet most elusive. Usually we feel that we are not occupying our proper place in society, and by brooding over this are thrown into a state of conflict. We are not sure what sort of person we really are, seeing that what goes on in our minds seems to bear no resemblance to outward behavior. Quite apart from any nerviness and strain, this is responsible for a constantly changing self-image, so that we are always looking for a new social position. Or else we withdraw into a shell. Either way, we do not make things easy for ourselves initially.

However, the Mercurial talents for communication and analysis are not diminished by the tension. Once we discover that there is a place for our mental creativity and that our lack of self-confidence is pointless, we can learn to feel at home with others and with our own thoughts. Admittedly, there are likely to be one or two confrontations to face in the beginning because of our inept handling of personal and social relationships, our inability to express precisely what we mean, and our habit of saying either too much or too little. These things are caused by basic uncertainty, and they have to be overcome before we can make progress.

