



2009:
A YEAR
OF
HOPE AND
CHANGE

LEO

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2009 OVERVIEW



There are a number of major planetary shifts this year, all which we will explore in-depth in the following chapters. This year sees Pluto finally changing signs for good. It will remain in Capricorn for the next 15 years or so. Jupiter is also changing signs in early January, and will remain in Aquarius all year. The Nodes will be changing sign in August, which is also the start of a new eclipse cycle. Finally, after over 2 long years, Saturn will be changing signs in late October and entering Libra.

Austerity has been hounding you for a while now. You may have never have worked so hard for so little fun. Back in the day, the glitz and the glamour was so effortless. But lately, you may just be toiling with very little fun in your environment. This could take its toll, either economically or on your self-esteem. This latter may be a contributing factor to why you are settling for Mr or Ms Wrong and trying to justify them to yourself when you know they are not really what you want.

Pluto for the past ten years was transitting your house of fun, romance, excitement, risk, and glamour...you know all those glorious things that make you and your life irresistible. For the most part of the naughties, however, your life may have been void of these things as you entered some kind of ordinary world that non-leonine mortals have to inhabit. Pluto has now moved on for good from this sector of your chart allowing you to rediscover the magic of life, but in a more profound, lasting and solid way.

The past year may have been a lot of toil, but without a lot of joy or economic gain on the job scene. You may have also taken a tumble on investments, or due to others people actions that effected your bank balance. You have been extremely fiscally responsible, and willing to work, but the flakiness of others or the markets in general may be causing sudden disruptions to your bank balance. This austerity could also be taking a toll on your sense of self, because a Leo needs a certain tiny secure base in order to fully shine.

All this focus on work could have made love take a backseat, and you may be settling for someone you know is just not up to what you really want. You may be trying so hard to fuel the delusion, but the truth keeps buzzing around your bonnet madly like annoying little bee. This tendency towards self-delusion in love can no longer be denied in 2009 when love issues get totally and explosively lit up by Jupiter.

In 2009, issues of love and the choice between the sensible and the ideal comes to the fore. Your financial axis is also lit up this year and requires some serious attention so that you never have to be at the mercy of other people's irresponsibility or exploitation again. You are a most generous sign, and people can try to bleed you dry.



JUPITER IN AQUARIUS

JANUARY 5, 2019 – JANUARY 18, 2020

OVERVIEW

Jupiter is a planet that, unlike other planets in astrology, doesn't have its own highly defined vibe. What Jupiter, the so-called gas giant, tends to do is blow up what is already there and exaggerate it. This can lead to feelings of expansiveness, but also, on the downside, to feelings of egomania and overconfidence, which could be a turnoff to others.

Wherever Jupiter is transiting there is always the danger of things spinning out of control or of getting too big for one's britches. Even though you may not want to at this time, it would be best to listen to old friends and family for advice if they start to insinuate that you have gone a bit mad. You may be drunk on exuberance, but a little reality check every once in a while could save you a lot of head ache in the long run.

Jupiter takes about 12 years to go around the zodiac and stays in each sign for about a year

When Jupiter sojourns through Aquarius, Aquarian concepts are brought to the forefront. This is a time of idealism, optimism, refreshed creativity and renewed faith and belief in the concept of democracy. After the rather bleak time of Jupiter in Capricorn, when the economic collapse quickly developed, this period promises hope, individuality and invention, shining in some light on a rather depressing economic scene. In fact, on a worldwide level, the focus is shifting from the material to the innovative, and we can look for a kind of renaissance in

the arts or pop culture.

Tony Blair's swearing in as Prime Minister ushered in the last Jupiter in Aquarius era as well as the Cool Britannia heyday. Ah, remember those days: the hope in the young, and (hard to say now) somewhat dashing, liberal politician who was going to put an end to the conservative era and reinvent a more hopeful society, where the youth could have a say and actively participate. ...sounds familiar...to something...what...could....that....be.....time to bury my head in the sand....that's better.

That was the last time there was actively a scene, with cool music, fashion, and literature, before the entire boyband / reality show explosion came and killed it all. Jupiter in Aquarius should help get us out of our cultural stupor to become a bit more artistically daring and original. The fact that Jupiter will be conjuncting artsy Neptune also bodes well for the creative scene and can all lead to a kind of renaissance.

Aquarius also rules technology, and Steve Jobs came back to Apple and the entire reinvigorated Apple revolution started at this time.

We can also look to concepts relating to globalisation to come to center stage, and the interconnectedness of the world, especially the world markets and food supply, to become increasingly evident. The Kyoto treaty to deal with global warming was signed during the last Jupiter in Aquarius time (well by the entire world except one of the most polluting...the USA).

Both Chiron and Neptune are transiting Aquarius at this time as well, and Jupiter will be making conjunctions with both

of them over the course of the next year. There will be reality checks and wake-up calls to any mass illusion or delusion we have been under. We may as a society be going through the conflicting pulls of running away from reality while at the same time facing a major time of reckoning. There may be pie in the sky optimism existing side by side with a major realisation that things are quite, and fundamentally, awful. Hopefully, this will led to an increased sense of the brotherhood of man, a globalised world not based on economy but on pulling together to save each other and our world because we have poised ourselves on the brink of disaster....how's that for pie in the sky idealism...

In your personal horoscope, Jupiter's influence is really coloured by the aspects it makes to planets and points in your birth chart, as opposed to just house placement. Jupiter itself just tends to exaggerate whatever is already going on, so if it is making a square or opposition to a planet in your birth chart, things could get a bit crazy.

FOR YOU

The focus turns from work to love this year as Jupiter enters your house of committed partnerships. There may be a tendency for your love life to run between steamy hot to the proverbial cold shower. Jupiter will be retrograding back and forth between Chiron and Neptune this year, like a pendulum. When Jupiter is conjunct Neptune, you could literally lose yourself in love. You will be able to open your heart to the spiritual and romantic union of love. You may believe you have found the one, and maybe you have. But you may also have fallen for Mr or Ms Wrong.

When Jupiter is hitting Chiron, those rose coloured glasses will be ripped from your face. If you have been deluding yourself about a romantic union, it will become obvious at this time, and there will be no escaping from the truth.

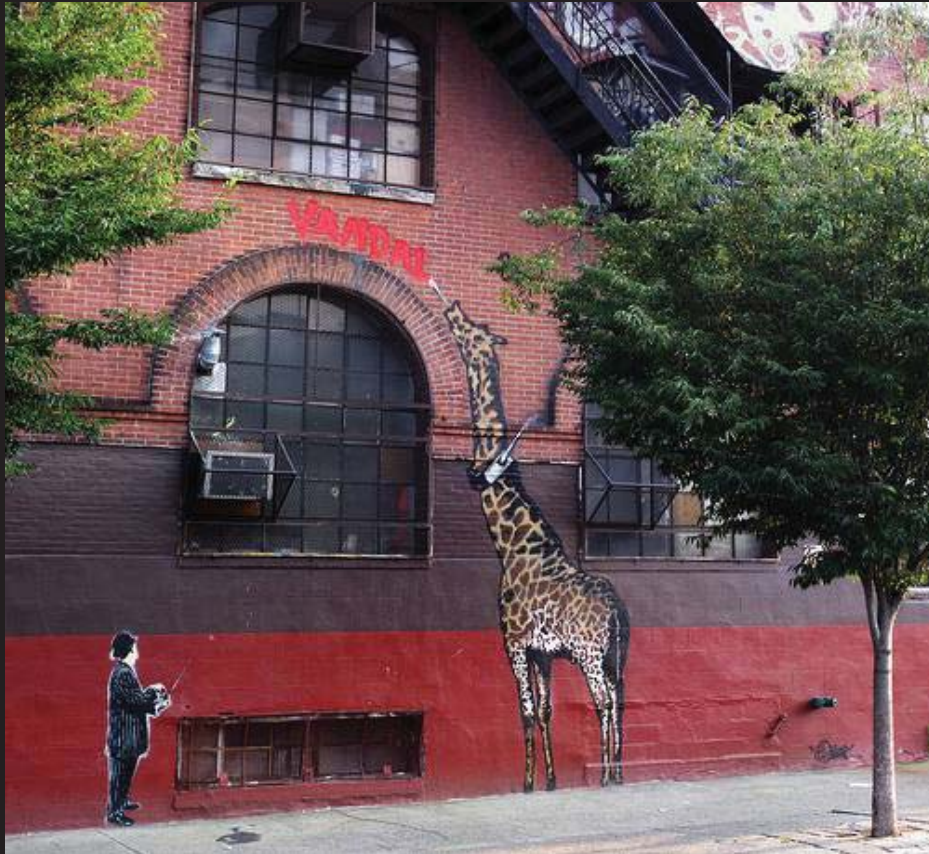
This back and forth swing between these two extremes could cause considerable confusion. You may be completely in love one minute only to question yourself and your partner or their motives the next. You will have a hard time distinguishing what is truth and what is illusion. It is important you face your love life with honesty and integrity and demand this from your partner. Your self-esteem may be a bit low during the first part of the year and you may allow yourself to settle with the wrong person, which will only feed your lack of confidence.

There is the chance of meeting your soul mate this year, but there may be a bit of drama involved. You may also need to give up your own highly individualistic behaviour to live the life of a true duo.

SATURN

IN VIRGO: JANUARY 1 – OCTOBER 29, 2019

IN LIBRA: OCTOBER 29 – DECEMBER 31, 2019



OVERVIEW

Saturn gets a kind of bad rap in astrology, and people who read astrology columns, often have a pathological fear of it. This is a shame, because, while challenging, it is not that bad. Sure, a Saturn transit will be no walk in the park, but it is one of those cases of you can't always get what you want, but what you need.

Saturn transitting through a sector of the chart is like a crash course in responsibility for whatever that zone is ruling. It teaches us to be mature adults and strips us of our childish behaviour. If for some reason, we are dealing immaturely with life or with other people, we will need to grow up fast.

The good thing about Saturn is that even though it brings austerity in the sector of your chart it is hitting, once it moves on it leaves you with a firm foundation in that same sector. Saturn is not so much about destroying as it is about building bases, and that of course takes hard work and sacrifice. At the end of a Saturn transit you will have a rock solid base, be it external or internal. You will have an adult, sober and rational approach that cannot be shaken and that will allow you to face life's struggles with a forcefulness and logic. Saturn strips away baby expectations and basically rips the rose-coloured glasses off your face and stomps them to bits on the ground. That is ok though, as nothing that is worthwhile and lasting should be easy.

If you remember this, these Saturn transits should not be so difficult. Work with Saturn to establish your basis. No matter how hard the struggle, keep your eyes on the prize and things will go much more smoothly. If you choose to regret and curse your so-called hardships things will be much worse psychologically. Be ready to grow up. In society we have come to disparage adult mature behaviour as being somehow bad or unnatural. In Saturn's case, it is actually there to help you build your future foundations which will be almost unshakable, and what could possibly wrong with that?

This year Saturn will change sign, so no matter what austerity and difficulty you have been having in the area it has been transitting, those troubles will be alleviated near year's end. Saturn will enter Libra on October 29th, which represents a major shift in cosmic energy (But Just to let you know, that it will re-enter Virgo through retrograde motion on April 7, 2010 before entering Libra for good on July 21, 2010).

It takes Saturn a little less than 30 years to make a complete voyage around the zodiac, staying in each sign about 2.5 years. So Saturn changing sign is somewhat big news and can be quite felt, so pay particular attention to this.

For the past year and a half or so, Saturn has been transitting Virgo. Virgo rules nutrition and during this time we have seen massive increases in the cost of food, as well as having major problems with the food supply. We can look to increased high costs for the next year.

Saturn also rules the nerves, and Saturn in Virgo can lead to a kind of despondency or cultural malaise (think the late 70s the last time Virgo transitted this sign).

When Saturn moves into Libra, it will be all about the complexity of human interdependence and how we negotiate with others. The last Saturn in Libra period was in the very early 80s. This decade in fact was ushered with the negotiation for the release of the hostages in Iran and marked a time of massive labor strikes, hunger strikes (in Northern Ireland), Solidarity in Poland as well as the Falkland and Lebanon Wars.

The UN also set up the International Day of Peace during this period, when warring factions are asked to have a 24-hour cease fire in the name of love and understanding. Maybe we could set up an International Year of Peace next time.

In the personal chart, the way you communicate and confront others will be highlighted, and you may need to make subtle changes in order not to be taken advantage of and obtain your rights.

FOR YOU

Toil, toil, toil, with little to show for it. For a while now, Saturn has been transitting your house of earned income, material possessions and self-esteem. There may be a certain austerity in any or all of the above categories in your life recently, and this trend continues through the first ten months of 2009. After that, however, Saturn moves out of this sector for the first time in over two years, bringing a lot of alleviation. So realise the worse is already behind, so hold on just a bit more.

In the meantime, the best bet is to use this period wisely to work and structure your finances. You can make a lot of progress at this time towards building a sturdy base foundation for you. It may not seem like that now, but if you keep working, slowly and steady, things will improve.

Alternatively, it may be your self-esteem that may be taking a beating recently, especially due to problems in the love department. Your love life may be vague and all over the place, and this may be making your ego take a hit.

All of these problems with material and self worth will alleviate at the end of October when Saturn enters your house of communication. During this time you may be more non-verbal than usual. Saturn's transit of this sector will make you a bit more taciturn and when you do speak, you will want your words to have meaning and purpose. Idle banter is not for you. If you are a writer or work in advertising this is an auspicious time to hone your craft. This transit will also teach you the gentle art of negotiation. You are a really open sign and often have no problems saying what's on your mind. This transit will teach you the benefit of the slow-reveal. Sometimes holding back communication isn't repression but strategy.

There may be estrangements or problems with neighbours or siblings. Try to seek forgiveness and understanding, but if not the best tactic would be the cold shoulder.



PLUTO IN CAPRICORN

JANUARY 1, 2009 - MARCH 23, 2023

OVERVIEW

Pluto will not be changing sign this year, but did so at the very end of 2008. Since this is such a rare and momentous event, I will give it a last go over in this year's horoscopes.

Pluto is the Big Daddy of transits. When it passes through a sign it positively decimates that sign's power in order to renew and transform it. For example, Libra is the planet of beauty. Pluto was transiting Libra in the 70s, one of the most aesthetically challenged decades on record. Pluto entered Scorpio, the sign that rules sex and death, at the same time that AIDS made its appearance.

Since the mid-90s, Pluto has been transiting Sagittarius which rules...terrorism and religious fundamentalism. The attacks in Mumbai were happening just as Pluto was leaving this sector once and for all, a kind of last hurrah. It is amazing with what rapid change we shifted our focus from matters of national security to an incredibly severe economy.

Pluto entered the sign of Capricorn for good in late November. Capricorn rules big business, power hierarchies, material goods and so and so on. Pluto will bring a fundamental change to the power structures in existence and this economic crisis is the first step to a new world order.

Pluto was last in Capricorn back at the time of the American Revolution. In fact this will mark the USA's first Pluto return.

Pluto returns often mark the time a superpower has to step back to a role of diminished capacity or reinvent itself somehow on the world stage.

Back during the last Pluto transit of Capricorn, revolution was in the air as the old monarchical system was being challenged with ideas of democracy and egalitarianism. These days it's the businesses who have the power and that control our ability to freedom - after all shopping is freedom, the inability to pay is servitude. We will see these structures start to fall to be taken over by a more free attitude to trade: be it trade of services, goods or power.

Pluto, Pluto, Pluto....I know I have been droning off on this for all of 2008, but in astrological terms this is a massive shift since Pluto changes signs it defines eras. So even though Pluto is not changing signs in 2009, it did in the final stages of 2008. I feel it is best to give you these horoscopes again one last time, as they will be valid for the next decade or so....then you won't hear about another Pluto sign shift until 2023....

FOR YOU

You are normally a very spontaneous and easy-going sign, but ever since the mid-90s, your enjoyment in life may have been dampened by competitiveness and prissiness from others who were not willing to let you shine. Having fun, in the end, may have ended up being nothing more than a lot of hard work. All this is now ending, and your charm and sense of adventure will be making a comeback. Also during this long transit you may have been able to increasingly focus and channel your creative impulses which may now be a source of power. You will now be able to possibly make a viable living from your

own charisma and creative output as Pluto moves into your house of daily work and health.

You will be quite powerful when it comes to focussing yourself and getting the job done. There may be a lot of power struggles, however, with colleagues who may come to see you as a bit of a threat, and do what they can to undermine you. It is a good idea, therefore, to try to work for yourself, by setting up your own company or working freelance or as a consultant. You are always best as a leader, as opposed to a follower, and Pluto will nudge you in this direction. You will best be able to make a mark and help the world, if you can do so without all the inter-office politics chipping away at your soul.

You should also pay close attention to your health at this time. You may end up completely revitalised with health better than ever before, or, if you neglect your body's warnings, your health may start to suffer. You must listen intuitively to what is going on in your physique and seek out proper medical advice. It is better to hear a doctor say nothing is wrong, and pay for the one-off visit, than to hear you waited too long to tackle a problem. You should consult your birth chart as well, to see how this will affect you.



THE NODES

NORTH NODE IN AQUARIUS / SOUTH NODE IN LEO:

JANUARY 1 - AUGUST 21, 2009

NORTH NODE IN CAPRICORN / SOUTH NODE IN CANCER:

AUGUST 21 - DECEMBER 31, 2009

OVERVIEW

The nodes change signs about once every nineteen months and unlike most other astrological phenomena always cycle backwards through the signs. The nodes, in physical reality, do not exist at all but instead are mathematically calculated points.

The Nodes put us on the right path to a better karmic goal. The Nodes sojourn through Aquarius and Leo promises a time when creativity and innovation can thrive, and we can turn our thoughts to international brotherhood and diplomacy. The arrogance and bullying partisanship we have been living with for the better part of the decade, will continue to shift to a greater desire to get along as one, and even a certain idealism can pervade the world culture.

Nodes are especially important to astrology, as eclipses occur when the sun and moon align with these points. (For more on 2009 eclipses check out that section).

The nodes are a pair - one south and one north - and represent our karmic path - where we are coming from and where we are going to. The nodes also effect the way our energy reacts to and influences our environment and people around us.

Since early 2008, the nodes have been transiting the idealistic Leo-Aquarius axis. I will recap here what I said last year about this transit before moving onto the new energy.

The South Node has been passing through Leo - the sign of fun, creativity and glamour, which when stressed, can instead lead to the celeb-focussed world we have increasingly devolved to. Our celebs today do not even have to be interesting, original, talented or beautiful, yet we are obsessed. A realignment is necessary. We have become fed up with the package reality show and want something deeper and more artistic, as Leo rules the arts.

The Nodes passage in this axis has transformed our world to one where total apathy gave way to a belief in change and innovation. Aquarius is the sign of true radical eccentricity on a universal level - as opposed to Leo which represents the individual. We can expect a new era to truly start dawning, where uniqueness and freshness are once again a pre-requisite for fascination.

It is as if a new era is starting now - with a refreshing change and renaissance possible in culture and the arts. This will not happen overnight, but over the course of the next couple of years in which a refreshing new optimism which will take hold after a rather bleak decade, (although there may still be problems dealing with the power of major corporations and money). A new authenticity, not born from money but from idealism, will take seed. We will no longer fear expression and conformity will start to recede. It may not be the best of times for the establishment or the economy, but will give rise to a great simmering pot that allows creativity and a certain simple joy to thrive.

Starting in August we will see a shift, as the North Node enters Capricorn and the South Node enters Cancer. This can be a time of major reckoning, especially in the world economy. The karma of Big Business will have repercussions ever more

increasingly to the individual little nest egg.

The Capricorn / Cancer axis can be seen as the dichotomy between individual security and power (the home) and the societal seats of power (such as government and corporations). The power of these two sectors feed and fuel, and could ultimately destroy, each other. We can't really blame big business entirely, when in our thirst for cheap products, we changed laws and shopping habits that drove out small businesses, which led to increased corporate control which had little regard for labor and which ultimately drove jobs overseas which then led to a decrease in purchasing power for the individual. Like a circle in a spiral and wheel within a wheel....

As individual consumers we are all to blame and this karma will work itself out over the course of 2009 and 2010. If power is in the pocketbook, we can't sit here and blame the greed of corporations when we voted in governments over the past 30 years that had little regards for the individual labor rights. Our desire for low taxes and cheap goods brought us here, so individual greed and selfishness is just as much to blame. (Unfortunately for some of us, we were not of the generation that did the most damage...or made out in the profits....but we do need to start picking up the pieces and making things right).

In the individual chart, this dichotomy will show where our own issues of personal power lay and how we need to integrate certain issues to have a greater and fairer sense of control.

FOR YOU

The first 7.5 months of 2009 could offer a time of romantic realignment. In the recent past you may have been going out more with Mr/Ms Wrong than Mr/Ms Right, and this may have left you in a state of confusion as to whether true love even exists or if it is just a compromise. Part of the problem is your highly individualistic nature makes it difficult for you to truly submit to the binds of coupledness. While the North Node transits Aquarius, you have the chance to finally meet the person of your dreams, and one that allows you to have a certain freedom to boot. Even if this is not The One for all eternity, they can have very strong effect on you, so do try to use this time while it is here.

From late August, the Nodes shift to your axis dealing with your daily life and your inner dreams. This will be a time to make those dreams a reality not by fanciful daydreaming but through hard, methodical work. You will be able to make a plan and stick to it, step by step, allowing you to get on the path to true success.



All your money issues (see the finance section) could be making your day-to-day working life quite intense, as you may have been biting off more than you can chew for a while now. In 2009, things settle down slightly, but there are still major tasks to undertake. On one hand, you should be able to have a certain power to accomplish quite a bit in your working life, while on the other you may need to approach your working life in a whole new way. Your working life may undergo a subtle transformation and you may very well even change careers. There may be power struggles with coworkers or bosses, and you may decide to strike out on your own. There is also the potential for powerful alliances to be formed.

You should check your birth chart to see what transits Pluto will be making to your natal planets. If you have natal planets in early Libra, Aries or Cancer, this may be a more challenging and intense time, while if you have natal planets in early Virgo or Taurus, you could make powerful strides.

You are normally a visionary sign, but you spend much time taking care of details and routine work during 2009.

The North Node will enter this sector of your chart in late August, and you have the chance to align yourself to your proper career path at this time, so try to truly listen to your heart and intuition when it comes to your working life. The eclipse on July 7th may help you on this karmic journey. The period leading up to this day may be quite intense, and you may even lose a job or quit at this time. Try not to quit in anger, as

the door may be firmly closed behind you. Whatever happens it is best to accept it and move on.

The month of January will see you at a 2-year peak in your daily work sector, and you should be able to accomplish much more work than usual this month. Just stick at it, and you will be amazed at your productivity. During the last week of April and all of May, you will be able to really go for the gusto career-wise, so get out there and move and shake. Mercury will be retrograde in your career sector during this phase mid-May to mid-June. This would be a good time to polish off those old projects that have been on the backburner, you may be able to complete them once and for all and to much success.

FINANCES



Money issues continue to dog you, and sudden changes from either investments or things that other people control, such as a grant, loan, spouse, parent or even rental property, could cause you out of the blue expenses or financial problems. It is a shame, and an annoyance, because you have probably never been quite this responsible in your entire life in regards to money, but outward forces and people keep pulling the rug out from under you. Saturn's transit through your money sector, is prompting you to never allow yourself to ever again be at the whim of someone else. Build your structures and bases now, even if it calls for temporary austerity so that you can be free from debt and dependence.

This has been a long journey, but you just need to hang on just a little longer. Saturn will be leaving your house of income in late October; after this time your financial problems should finally start to alleviate and you should be able to start having a more stable and steady income. In the meantime, however, do not get lazy or despair, keep working hard and you will be rewarded for it later.

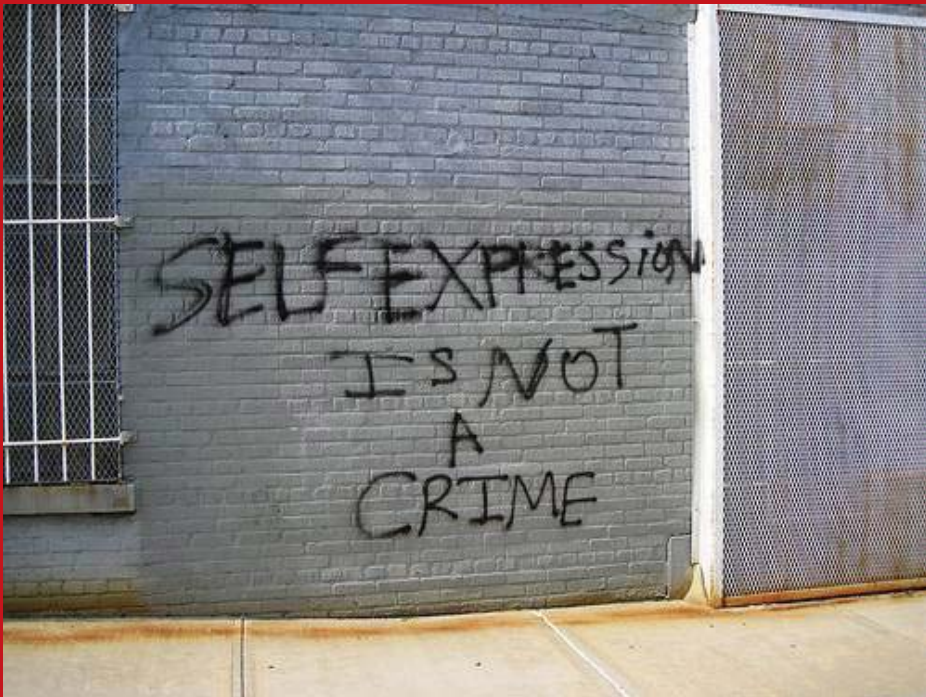
If you are trying to start your own business, this would be a great time to lay your foundations, even though you may not see much profit, and then start increasing your network and really promoting yourself after the end October. At that time, you could make some strong connections.

Mars will be transiting your sector of joint finances mid-March until late April. You may be in a risk-taking mood, but due to

Uranus' transit of this sector opposing Saturn in your income sector, it is best to resist temptation. The period around April 15th, especially, may see some havoc in regards to investments or joint finances. Try to save some money to cover your bases at this time.

Venus will be transitting your house of income and material possessions from mid-September until mid-October. You may be longing for a more luxurious life; just realise that Saturn will be leaving this sector at the end of the month, and that better life is on the horizon.

CREATIVITY



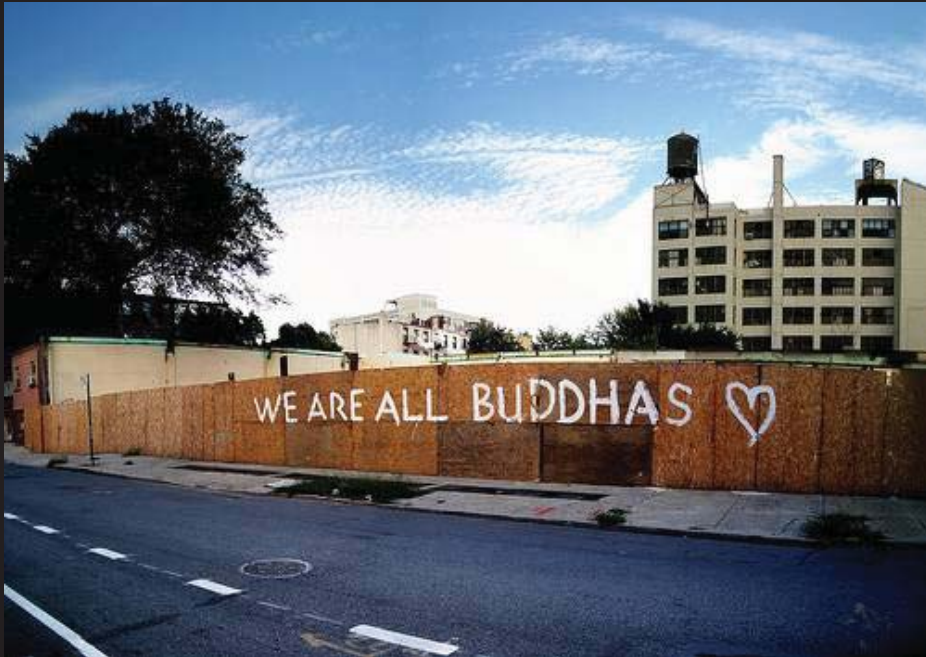
The good news is that Pluto has left your creativity sector for good. Over the past decade, you have been on an exploratory journey as far as your own creativity is concerned. You may have experimented with many different mediums, and you may have found the rude awakening that art requires just as much effort, if not more, as any other job. It may not have been that fun, actually. Still, you may have finally managed to get in touch with your own creative force in the end.

Now with Pluto gone, and this sector of your chart free from any major transits in the year 2009, you will be able to have a less-stressful approach to your artistic projects. The intensity to produce will die down and you will be able to create in a less threatening environment. You should now feel good in your creative skin and be able to buzz along quite nicely. Venus, the ruler of the arts will be transiting your creativity sector for the first 3.5 weeks of December, and this should represent the most inspired time of the year for you.

For writers, the big news is that Saturn enters your writing sector in late October, and will remain here for almost 3 years. During this time you will be able to focus on your writing projects and get a tremendous amount of work done. The technique of writing especially will be your forte, and you will be able to structure a work or craft a sentence with amazing precision and skill. You will have the stamina to complete long projects such as a novel or non-fiction book.

Saturn brings with it its own austerity; it calls for you to be

responsible and adult in relation to your work. You have to put in the man hours and dedication, and if you do you can complete a lot. If you have a child-like view, and think writing is this inspired force and you are merely the conduit to the divine, get in for a rude awakening. Through hard work, you can create solid work and even maybe gain some recognition for it.



Your love life has been nebulous at best for several years now. You crave intense, dramatic union with a divine soulmate, but for many years you have been involved in vague non-committal relationships with people that were all wrong for you. The positive side of this, is that at a certain point, even you have been willing to face the music about the non-rightness of these relationships. Even though you are still unsure what it is you do want, at least you have a pretty good idea what you don't want.

Another good development is that Pluto has moved out of your romance sector for good at the end of last year. It had been transitting this sector of your chart since the mid-90s. While you long for glamour and good times in your romances, the past decade may have been a bit more gritty than you would have liked. You may have had control issues in relationships or just that glamorous, Dynasty-like carefree fun you wanted from relationships was replaced with needy partners who wanted intensity in all the wrong ways. You are definitely not one for co-dependence. Now that Pluto has moved on from this sector, your relationships should return to more of a fun-loving vibe.

If you have been focussed on work or money for a while now, there will be no escaping love this year. Jupiter joins Neptune, Chiron, the Nodes and eclipses in your house of committed partnership. This veritable traffic jam in this sign means there is bound to be some movement in this part of your chart, and there will be no escaping it.

With Neptune and Chiron in a close dance this year, without ever actually conjuncting, additionally being hit and enhanced by Jupiter, you may fall deeply in love only to question it later, or perhaps you may fall for someone you need as opposed to what you thought you wanted. In any case, these relationships will perhaps have a fated quality to them. What ever happens will most likely be what you need in your personal development. There may be an ethereal quality to this entire year, but it could all just evaporate just as suddenly. The question will be what is really real?

The periods around the eclipses in this sector could lend some sudden insights and developments into your relationships. These periods could be especially confusing and it may be difficult to process this crazy energy. Be careful of throwing the baby out with bathwater; if you break up with someone at an eclipse you may not get a second chance. The eclipses are on January 26th and August 6th. Look at these eclipses as periods when you can be suddenly realigned to your true romantic karmic path.

Adding more chaos to the confusion is Uranus' continued transit of your intimacy sector. Either you or a partner may run hot and cold, into it one minute, distant the next. You may be a bit unsure if you want to commit or open up truly and deeply to your partner.

Your most passionate times of the year will be from early February until late April when Mars transits your relationship sectors, bringing your physical passion to a 2-year high. Venus during the entire month of January could aid you in suddenly falling in love with someone.



Your home sector is free of any major transit from a life-altering slow-moving planet, eclipse, or retrograde this year. Things should be relatively stress-free unless there is some transit hitting something in your birthchart. Try to avoid re-mortgaging or refinancing your home, as there may be confusion in these areas. Homes as investment properties could also be an Achilles heel. But your principal homestead and family life should be fine, and stress-free.

The last three weeks of November should be especially harmonious as Venus transits this sector of your chart bringing harmony, peace and contentment. You may also want to do some redecoration at this time as your taste will be impeccable.

Basically this year will see your home as a nice, cosy base from which you can operate. The planets are basically leaving you alone, so what you give is what you get.



There are not any major planets transitting this sector of your chart this year, nor are there any eclipses, long-term retrogrades or other astrological phenomena going on. This is all quite nice because you can control the energy in this area of your chart. If you have the time and will to cultivate your friendships you can have very pleasant times. Even if you do not have the time and will to spend time with your friends, you should find them quite patient and there nonetheless, and not filling you with drama scenes or tempter tantrums or other burdens out of your control.

It's basically up to you and your judgement to choose who you spend time with and how much you allow them to get close or stay distant. You should be pretty good at discerning the keepers from the good-time pallies, and shouldn't have any rude awakenings about people, but just accept them for who they are without them draining you of needed vitality.

In June, you have both the Sun and Mercury transitting this sector of your chart, lighting up your friendship sector and promising good times and lively conversation. In July you have Venus in this sector, and it may be a time you want to spend with your closest friends who are nearest to your heart. All friendships at this time will be warm, diplomatic and harmonious, so if you need to smooth out any misunderstandings now would be a great time to do so.

This summer period of group good times culminates from July 12th to August 25th when Mars is transitting your friendship

sector, marking a 2-year high point in your social life. This is the start of a whole new social cycle, so mark this time with new beginnings. You may meet new and dynamic people and cement existing bonds. This is a time to move and shake, and your birthday period should be truly a lively one. Lots of times Leos' birthdays coincide with summer holidays so you can't spend time with your friends, but this year promises a lot of sparkle no matter where you are.

HEALTH



Pluto entered your health sector late last year. Particular attention should be paid to your health in 2009. If you are not feeling well or show any strange symptoms, it is best to get things checked out. It is a period when prevention is key. Do not wait for things to degenerate. It is best for you to be as intuitive and in tune with your own body and listen to its signals and if something is off, definitely go and get it checked out.

It is difficult to say in a sun sign report how this transit will effect you. If you have planets in Virgo or Taurus, you may undergo a complete regeneration in a positive way in terms of your health. You will be able to undergo a regime of fitness and wellness that can repair years of stress and fatigue. If you have planets in Cancer, Libra or Aries, however, you will want to see when they are being hit by the Pluto transit and definitely watch your health at those times. This would be a good time to explore more in depth the planets in the cardinal signs of your birth chart and see exactly when Pluto will be transiting them.

In any case, any positive steps will not go unnoticed. Do try to do those things that will effect your health in a positive way, such as giving up smoking or eating non-processed foods. Try to get stress under control as well.

You should be feeling quite robust and vital in January and the first week of February, when Mars transits this sector of your chart, bringing with it added vitality.

There will be an eclipse in this sector on July 22nd. You may catch a sudden illness around this time, so take precautions to stay healthy, take your vitamins and get plenty of sleep.

RETROGRADES

2009 RETROGRADE FINDER



Retrograde periods are, in reality, celestial optical illusions. Due to the varying planetary differences when orbiting around the sun, there are periods when a planet appears to go backwards in the sky when viewed from earth.

These retrograde periods signify a time when the energy normally associated with these planets kind of shuts down or weakens. There can be confusion or mix-ups. In general, retrograde periods of the inner planets are not good times to sign contracts, make decisions or take on new projects. They are great times, however, for tackling and finally finishing all the projects you have going.

The far outer planets of Saturn, Uranus, Neptune and Pluto can spend up to 50% of their time in retrograde motion. For this reason, retrograde motion is almost "normal" for these bodies. Not too much stress should therefore be placed on their significance, but I have listed their retrograde periods for reference. If you would like to have a more in-depth view of retrogrades, be sure to check out the retrograde tutorial in the astroschool segment of the etc section on the website: astrologydetective.com.

Mercury

January 11 in Aquarius; it then re-enters Capricorn from January 21 - February 1

May 7 in Gemini; it then re-enters Taurus from May 13 - 31

September 7 in Libra; it then re-enters Virgo from September 18 - 29

December 26 - 31 in Capricorn

Mercury is the planet that rules communication, and when it goes retrograde mix-ups and frustrations can occur very easily. It is best to put off any major decisions until after the retrograde period. These are also not auspicious times to launch new projects or businesses as confusion can rear its ugly head throughout the life of the undertaking.

Travel plans can also go haywire, and you should expect delays or cancellations. If you sending any important documents, try to do so certified and be particularly careful with email messages - that you don't send unfinished emails out by accident, or hit reply all with a personal message, etc.

If you dedicate yourself instead to getting finished once and for all with your backlog of work, you will be able to get an amazing amount accomplished.

Venus

March 6 in Aries; it then re-enters Pisces from April 11 - 17

You may want to hide the mirror during this retrograde period. Venus is the planet of beauty, and these retro periods may coincide with a complete, yet temporary deterioration in looks. If you want to know what you will age to look like in 10 years time, these periods will give you that glimpse into the future.

Venus retro times may also bring back lost loves from the past and a feeling of sweet melancholic nostalgia of the past. If you want to give that one lost big true love a second and final chance, now is the time to do it.

Mars

December 20 - 31 in Leo

Mars retrograde periods are times when advancement grinds to a lethargic halt. It can be very hard to move towards a goal during these periods, and every small task can require massive effort. Again, these are not good times to launch any new projects, as they will likely get bogged down and hard to get off the ground.

Instead of the outer focus on inner-accomplishment and getting back in touch with what makes you tick and inspires you.

Jupiter

June 15 - October 13 in Aquarius

When Jupiter goes retrograde, scarcity can abound. Things become more austere and less expansive. These can be times of general lack - be it financial, amorous or creative (think writer's block). These are very bad times to launch a business or project, as funding and money could be a problem throughout the life of the endeavour.

Saturn

January 1- May 17 in Virgo

When Saturn goes retrograde you may feel like you are not making headway in work. Keep at it though, as your strides may not be evident at this time, but will pay off later.

Uranus, Neptune and Pluto spend almost half their time retrograde, so retrograde motion is almost normal for these planets. I am listing the retrograde periods here just FYI.

Uranus

July 1 - December 1 in Pisces

Neptune

May 29 - November 4 in Aquarius

Pluto

April 4 - September 11 in Capricorn

Chiron

May 30 - October 31 in Aquarius

RARE EVENTS

SATURN OPPOSITE URANUS: FEBRUARY 5; SEPTEMBER 15

JUPITER CONJUNCT CHIRON: MAY 23, JULY 22, DECEMBER 7

JUPITER CONJUNCT NEPTUNE: MAY 28, JULY 10, DECEMBER 21

SATURN SQUARE PLUTO: NOVEMBER 15

OVERVIEW

This year there will be three sets of rare events between the slow moving planets that actually color a lot of the year. Due to retrograde motion, Jupiter will be dancing around Chiron and Neptune for a good portion of the year.

Saturn and Uranus will also oppose two times and Saturn will square Pluto once. Since these are slow moving transits, their affect will be felt for a long period surrounding the exact transit, although the day on which the transit occurs will be the most intense. As such each of these energies will effect great portions of the year.

It is also interesting to note that due to the way planets are configured at the moment there is a tendency that when a personal planet trines Neptune it will be squaring Uranus. These periods will be very electric and there could be major realignments to dreams and actions at these times. As this takes place with a number of fast-moving planetary transits, I will be dealing with them individually in the monthly horoscopes throughout the year, as it would be too much to go into now in this yearly overview.



Saturn opposite Uranus

These are times when iconoclasm clashes against tradition. We already were dealing with this energy around the time of the US elections last year. The material, physical world of stability and structure is at odds with the world of inspiration, eccentricity, innovation and change. This is a rare period, when it is actually possible to integrate these normally opposite forces into a manageable and productive whole.

There are also stresses, as people tend to take sides and cling to old patterns, preventing the positive gains possible. Allow yourself to see the other side of the coin at these times, and you can gain valuable insight and ways of interacting with the world that you can carry with you into the future.

Saturn opposite Uranus times can collide with major strides in civil rights, but often brought about through force and suddenness. There may be protests, as was after the prop 8 vote or the current riots in Oakland following the tragic BART shooting.

In an individual chart, these periods can also carry their share of anxiety, especially if you cling to control and resist change. Allow yourself to flow with changes and it all could be quite exciting and liberating.

FOR YOU

Be careful about investments or the financial promises of other people on this day, as they could have an austere effect on your own financial situation. Around this day, neither a borrower nor a lender be. If you cover your own bases and maintain your financial independence, you should be fine. If

you rely on others for a source of funding, they may not come through, so do not count on money until it arrives. This does not apply to money owed by employers, but to grants, gifts, investments and the like.

Jupiter conjunct Neptune and Chiron

Throughout the year Jupiter will be conjuncting Neptune, Chiron and the Nodes in Aquarius. This is a time when the chickens are coming home to roost. Its as if our delusions are at odds with the truth and we are being forced to see the situation as it is, once and for all. It is a bit of karmic payback time, and the more we try to go along with the old status quo the more we will be forced to unleash these shackles and implement a new approach filled with innovation and individuality.

Creatively, these can be really inspiring and artistic times. There could be a kind of cultural renaissance in the arts, which could be truly innovative and meaningful, a break with the manneristic, pop-culture-inspired art of the past decade or so. Koonsian sculptures of celebs just won't cut it as art anymore, and lofty visions and ideas are what are called for now. Please note too, that as it takes time for creations to fully form and be released to the public, via publishing, etc, there may be a lag between the works of creation, this year, and when it really starts impacting the society (maybe in two years time).

Art will finally be able to look at the state of our society and interpret it and make sense of it, which is what the purpose of art is anyways.

Ideas of brotherhood and democracy will be raised as people

join together for a common sense of purpose and rediscovered joys of true community and collective purpose and identification. It will not be based on borders or passports, ethnicity but on the idea that we are all one. Even when we are being woken to the gritty reality by Chiron, it is to a higher purpose. The stagnation and malaise of the past 2 decades will recede and we can move forward based on ideas and visions, not just commerce and tv shows.

It is as if all society is being realigned to a better path, based on truth and meaning. This may not be easy but it may be thrilling and inspiring as well.

In the individual chart these transits will also bring a wake up call to your life and help put you on the right path to your destiny. You will be able to wake up from any delusions you are under in the sector of the chart effected, to better set yourself on the right path to happiness, as opposed to illusion.

FOR YOU

See the Jupiter section for an in-depth analysis of this transit.

Saturn square Pluto

This transit takes place near the end of the year, and to be honest it's not the greatest. It has a pretty depressing and heavy energy. On top of that, it is happening on the Aries point which is the first degree of the cardinal signs (in this case Libra and Capricorn).

This period may represent the start of the rock bottom of the economic meltdown. Due to retrograde motion, this transit will remain in effect also for a lot of 2010, until early autumn.

(forewarned is forearmed).

Capricorn is all about the economy, business and government; when being squared by Saturn there could be utter and complete stagnation. Things just may not budge. A lot of hard work will be called for to dig out of a very deep hole. There could be a lot of frustration in the air as change isn't happening as fast as is liked. But note, that is not because the change is not happening, but that it is not happening overnight. A lot of work is needed at this time, and fundamental, sound changes will be brought about that will bring stability in time, but extreme patience is called for. In the meantime, a really depressing and downbeat period could be at hand.

This is a time to clear out the dead wood that has collectively been collected in society. Things are happening, slowly but surely, so it is best to remain focussed on the long-term goal. We are so used to instant solutions to crisis, that it may be a bit annoying. This time we need to work together to build a new future, which will come and be considerably stronger than before. To be honest, the economy may not fix itself until after Saturn completes its transit of Capricorn in 2020, and then when Pluto leaves Capricorn in 2023.

But money is not everything, and this is bringing us to a time which is more austere yet more meaningful and in an odd way more satisfying. Especially in 2011 when Uranus enters Aries starting a whole new creative cycle and Neptune enters Pisces, an era of idealism and creativity will be on us.

Life has been so stagnant and there has been serious decay within the boom. We have been stuck in a gilded cage of lovely junk. I really think the "naughties" will go down as kitschier and worse than the 70s, with the reality tv shows,

Paris Hilton, ugly clothes (low riders with a thong popping out is this decade's response to bell bottoms with platform shoes and polyester-printed shirts). In the coming years with less, we will be forced to create more, and rediscover our humanity in that.

In a personal chart, this square will bring to light long-standing issues that need to be fixed, and will take some time to do, but total regeneration is possible...so keep your eyes on the prize.

FOR YOU

You may have a hard time finding an effective communications strategy to make your business work. You may be very capable at what you do, but are having a hard time selling yourself. This can all be quite frustrating and you may feel blocked from having the work life you want and need. Try to seek advice on how to best present yourself to more effectively market yourself and your services.

ECLIPSES

ECLIPSES ON THE AQUARIUS / LEO AXIS:

JAN 26TH SOLAR AQ; FEB 6TH LUNAR IN LEO; AUGUST 6TH LUNAR IN AQ

ECLIPSES ON THE CAPRICORN / CANCER AXIS:

JULY 22ND SOLAR CANCER; JULY 7TH LUNAR CAP; DEC 31 LUNAR CANCER

In 2009, we will have a shift of the Nodes, which brings about with it a shift in the eclipse cycle. In 2008, the eclipses were impacting primarily the Leo/Aquarius axis. There will be one more solar, and two lunar eclipses on this axis and one solar/lunar pairing on the Capricorn / Cancer axis. To end the year with a bang, there will be one final lunar eclipse on New Years Eve.

Eclipses always happens in pairs: one solar to one (sometimes two) lunar within the month. This year however the 3 lunar eclipses occurring in Feb, July and August are so slight that they are not even listed in the bible of astrological data Raphael's Ephemeris. These are referred to as penumbral eclipses and they happen when the nodes and moon just barely intersect. As such, we can experience their influence in a slightly less direct manner.

If eclipses are wild cards that can throw dramatic, unforeseen events into your life, these barely there lunar eclipses may be more subtle than the usual sledgehammer of turmoil that usually accompany an eclipse. These effects may be evident yet hidden, perhaps working in a more inner or psychological manner. These periods could have a feeling of foreboding or surreality, when things seem a bit off, or not right, but you just can't put your finger on it.

The Leo / Aquarius eclipse cycle will continue the work of last year when we were literally jolted out of a period of fear and



uncertainty into one of hope and belief.

This cycle will highlight issues concerning the Leo-Aquarius dichotomy: self-minded independence versus freedom within the context of the group dynamic, allowing a harmony between these two ways of being to emerge.

The new eclipse cycle which debuts in July will be on the Cancer / Capricorn dynamic. This will highlight the dichotomy of our own individual security versus the security to be found in institutions or organisations. It will become increasingly evident what power is and how we give it or receive it. Governments and businesses control the people, but it is also the people that give them their power through commerce or votes.

On a more individual level, these may be times when you are hit out of the blue with problems to your security that stem from a business or organisational matter. It is really best to save for a rainy day that could occur at these times, but that kind of goes without saying for the entire year.

General Information about Eclipses

Eclipses occur when a new or full moon conjuncts the lunar nodes. The nodes, as explained in that section, are calculated points which in astrology are used to denote our karmic path. If we stray too far from our true destiny, eclipses help give us the jolt needed to realign us to this journey.

Eclipses tend to bring about random events, and can be very emotional and chaotic at the time. Moreover, events brought about by an eclipse can occur a month before or after the eclipse. These events can be so random, that at the time, one

may wonder what the point of these events are in regards to one's overall life picture, and indeed, this confusion may reign until a planet such as Mars passes over the eclipse point or the present eclipse cycle ends months later, bringing a better clarity and integration of this energy.

While eclipses can be timed, it can be very difficult to predict how an eclipse will manifest itself in one's life, as these events are so dramatic, extreme and random. There are certain things we can ascertain however, depending on the house and sign the eclipse occurs in.

Eclipses occur in pairs along an astrological axis of two opposing signs. An eclipse cycle lasts around 18 months before it moves on to the next axis and events will therefore highlight the energies surrounding those houses in one's natal chart. When an eclipse cycle moves to a new axis, an entire new life phase is starting that will take approximately a year and a half to fully transition to. In the areas affected by the eclipse, your life will be completely remade anew and changes that were unimaginable before happen completely and swiftly. For example, a person who has been single for a long time could meet their true love and get married when an eclipse occurs in their love houses. Or conversely, for someone who has been in a loveless partnership for years, swift moving events will finally bring a dissolution to this situation.

Eclipses tend to be most intensely felt when they hit within five degrees the angles of one's chart (the cusp of the 1st, 4th, 7th or 10th houses) or a planet. If they are not hitting a planet, your ascendant, descendant, MC or IC, then you will most not likely feel the stressful effects of the eclipse. Also eclipses are most intense when forming a conjunction or opposition to an element in one's chart.

It is also interesting to note, that eclipses occur either at a new or full moon - thereby being supercharged versions of these monthly occurrences. Solar eclipses, take place at the new moon, and emphasize new beginnings and the stresses these can bring about. They also tend to be much more external and active. Lunar eclipses take place at the full moon and represent endings. These times can be much more psychological and internal - and you should watch that your emotions do not get the best of your behaviour that could lead to irreversible events affecting your future. Also beware of bad judgements that can lead you to confront others - if you offend or cut someone off at this time, they will most likely not come back, even if you apologise.

Eclipses will bring about stressful events and monumental change relating to the houses in which the eclipses are taking place. If the eclipse is to be found in your financial axis, for example, you may have a dramatic and stressful event relating to money - such as fraud, losing a source of income, or some type of transformation in monetary affairs. It may seem so random that no bright side can be seen. In time, however, you may look back to see that this event allowed you to take your finances more seriously, not rely on or trust the wrong people, thereby allowing you much greater financial growth and stability than if the event had never had occurred.

Eclipses can also bring to the surface all the flaws that are normally swept under the rug - either by revealing startling news or information that had been hidden from you or exposing patterns in your life that are no longer viable. In this way, eclipses are like holding a magnifying glass to the sun to expose a ray of burning truth. Again, what is revealed at this time may be disillusioning, but in the end, allows you to live

with a greater overall integrity, understanding and authenticity.

The best way to deal with eclipses is to just give up any notions of being a control freak and try to roll with the surprises and crazy energy the best you can. Events brought about at eclipse time are often irreversible, so it is best to accept the situation and move on to the new order. For this same reason, it is best not to schedule important decisions or discussions at this time as your judgement may be a bit groggy and there is a high margin of irreversible error.

No matter how dramatic the event, realise the worst is just around the time of the eclipse after which you can back on track in your life. Look at it as a time of ending and renewal, like a snake shedding its skin, stripping away outmoded patterns, institutions and people and offering a sort of tabula rasa on which to project and construct the true fundamental vision of your deepest dreams.

FOR YOU

Eclipses occur on an astrological axis so these horoscopes will be the same for a given sign and its opposite.

The Leo / Aquarius Eclipses (see dates above):

This eclipse cycle moves into your sign and its opposite. For you, a major new life phase is starting. During the time of this eclipse cycle, your life will have been completely remade anew in ways previously unimaginable. The evolution your life undergoes at this time can be quite revolutionary. It may seem like you are on the fast track to change (is it any coincidence that change is the keyword of Barack Obama - himself a Leo),

able to completely redo in a nineteen-month period what it would normally take years to accomplish.

These eclipses highlight the axis of your chart dealing with identity/independence and partnership, ultimately bringing about a harmony between the two. If you have been centered on your own self, you may meet and possibly even marry someone, allowing your heart and love to be directed to the other. Alternatively, if you have been sacrificing your own identity for the sake of taking care of a partner, you may be pushed on the path to putting your own needs and self first. In any case, even though these changes may be stressful and confusing at the time, look at it as a time for a personal renaissance. This may be easier for the Leos out there, who like Madonna, are masters at reinvention of the self - cats do have nine lives (or more). Likewise, open-minded Aquarians will have a chance to explore new avenues and meet interesting people.

Saying that, however, it must be noted that both Aquarius and Leo are fixed signs that can be resistant to change, so it is important that you learn to roll with whatever comes your way. For Leos, eclipse events will force you to take the focus off yourself and sacrifice a bit of the stage for the sake of a partner (quite like Leo Bill Clinton is doing with wife Hillary). Alternatively, if you have been hiding away, you will be pushed to reclaim your Leonine birth-rite, as you may be pushed into the spotlight.

For Aquarians, you may need to deal with the extreme closeness of one-on-one relationships. Aquarius you possess a universal love, and are more comfortable in groups than with the messy emotions brought about by committed, exclusive partnerships. The eclipses will help you integrate this way of

being into your life.

This is a time to reinvent yourself, if you are not following your dreams of stardom or love, the universe will push you in that direction. Both physically in terms of outward appearance and internally, it will be time for a complete make-over. Overall, you may meet the love of your life, your soulmate, or achieve some type of major recognition or career advancement.

Any thing that has been swept under the rug will now come out, allowing for partnerships to either end or go forward with a new truthful integrity. Be aware that if you break up with a partner at eclipse time, a reconciliation may not be possible, so don't let your emotions get the better of you.

All these changes may seem confusing but they are for the better good.

The Cancer / Capricorn Eclipses (see dates above):

Breathe a sigh of relief. Things settle down considerably this year after the eclipses in your own solar axis. These changes may have been difficult and stressful, but also refreshingly liberating, freeing you to start a whole new major life phase and way of being. The previous few years most likely saw personal growth at an unprecedented acceleration. Things that happened out of the blue forced you to learn how to roll with life's changes, stripping you of anxiety and worry. Things were moving so fast you could not even stop to think, but just had to act. Unexplained break-ups and a shifting sense of self could have occurred at eclipse times, forcing you to deal with life on your own terms, and allowing others the respect to deal with life themselves, without your meddling or control

The new eclipses are in a much more benign aspect to your sun. You should, however, pay close attention to your birth chart, and note if any occur within a five degree orb to a planet or angle of your chart - as these would effect you more than others.

During the eclipse cycle on the Cancer / Capricorn axis you will be pulled between your dreams and ego concerns and your service to others. Your self-centered dreams may be stripped away to have you focus more on how your behaviour effects those around you or, alternatively, you will find that you will be forced to live life on your own terms instead of living vicariously through others.

In any case, you will be freed to new patterns of behaviour and maturity and learn the true meaning of sacrifice and love.

Also be careful of any health flare-ups that occur around eclipse time. Seek attention immediately, and always get a second opinion. If you need to schedule a non-emergency procedure it is best to do so at least one month before or after an eclipse.