

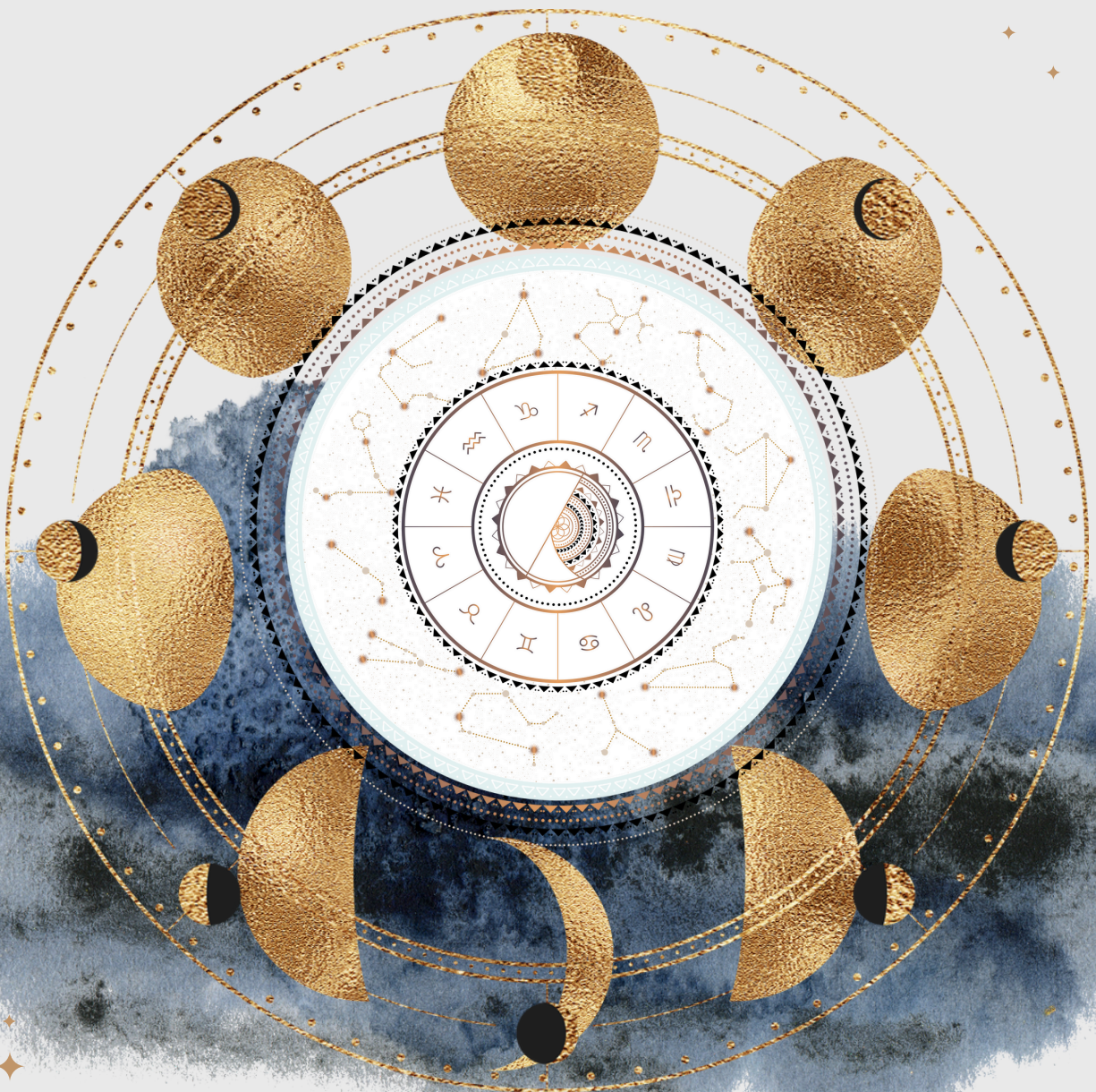


# PERSONAL TRANSITS HANDBOOK

Jessica DiRuzza, MFT  
& Travis DiRuzza, PhD

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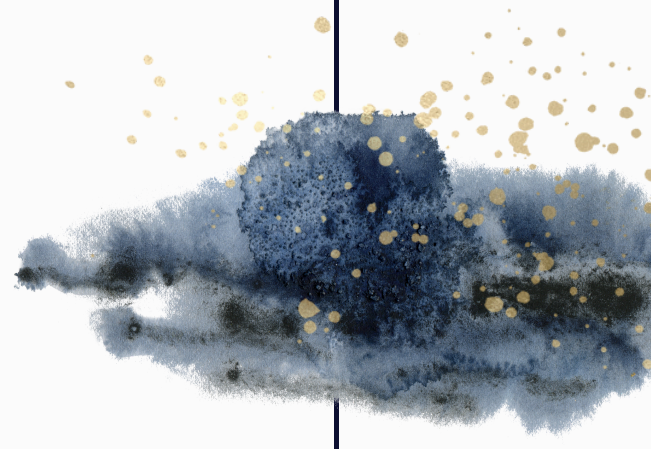
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# Introduction

What we are about to learn together is an ancient and sacred language that lives inside each one of us. The intelligence and magic of astrology is that, over millennia, we as a human species have awoken to our place in the Cosmos and have encoded this awakening in the language of the stars. Our understanding of our relationship to the Cosmos is ever-evolving, as is our astrology. In this process of remembrance and creative growth, we embark upon a journey that will open the depths of our psyche and activate our life processes more fully and powerfully than without these sacred practices. Transit astrology allows us to live our life in greater harmony with our selves, our soul, our world, and one another.

The positions of the Sun, Moon, and seven planets from the view point of the earth constitute the **world transits** for any given moment in time. The world transits represent the *anima mundi*, the living soul of the world. When a person is born, the world transits of the birth moment become that person's **natal chart**. The individual soul incarnates into a specific moment in time of the soul of the world, giving individual expression to that moment. The relationships between the ongoing world transits and the fixed natal chart are called **personal transits**. The most important of these are the geometric or angular relationships known as the major aspects, formed between transiting planets in the sky and natal planetary placements in the birth chart.

For example, when transiting Jupiter conjoins—moves into the same position—as the natal Sun, a Jupiter transit to the Sun is said to occur, namely a conjunction (0°), activating the expansive abundance of Jupiter in relation to that person's identity and sense of self. When speaking about transits, always say the transiting planet first and the natal planet second. This is standard astrological grammar that will help you to be understood.

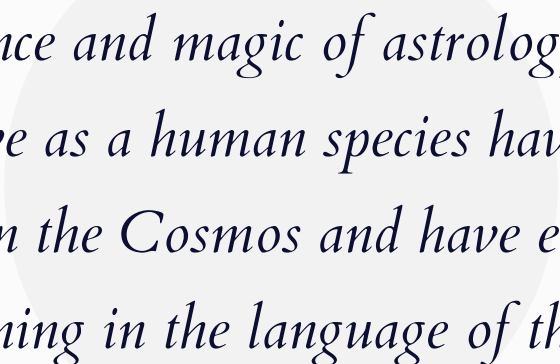
Personal transits are the living relationship between your soul's expression of the *anima mundi* at the moment of your birth and the current state of the world soul. Your personal transits convey how the soul of the world is in relationship with itself through you. This is why it is our birthright to become as fully ourselves as possible, because that self is ultimately an expression of Source, as shown by the connection between the natal chart and the anima mundi. As we embody the potentials of our birth chart and become more fully ourselves, we commune with that unique facet of Source seeded in our birth moment, while simultaneously rejoining that facet of Source to itself in the present. Through personal transit practice, we may open to our fullest potential, while at the same time offering the soul of the world back to itself.

Personal transits are at the core of astrological practice, because the core of astrological practice is relationship. Once we have a strong understanding of the meaning and spatial layout of the natal chart, we then begin working with transits, which are ***astrology in time and motion***. While the birth chart shows the precise astronomical positions of the world transits at the moment of your birth, those same world transits continue to progress and change over your entire lifetime. Personal transit astrology—or just transit astrology for short—is a lifelong practice because we have new transits each day, month, and year of our lives. We can use transit astrology to better understand our past, contextualize our present, and guide us to participate more fully in our unfolding future.

Just like learning to read a natal chart, it is important to take transit astrology one step at a time, and to take our time with each step, so that the practice can coherently build upon itself. With transits, the complexity of our astrological practice increases dramatically, so it is important to go slowly in order not to get overwhelmed. The best way to approach this practice is to proceed simply, step-by-step, as we will be holding together many factors at once and through time. It is natural to want to take everything in right away, but I have noticed in my years of teaching that going too quickly leads to misunderstandings. If you notice yourself getting confused or speaking incorrectly about your transits or natal chart, stop and retrace your steps more deliberately to create a stronger foundation to build upon.

Once we arrive at the intermediate-advanced phase of astrological practice, as exemplified by transit astrology, it is necessary to spend more time with the astronomy. The astronomical architecture of our solar system is what underpins the rational structure of astrology itself, providing crucial information about the order of significance of factors, their relative weight and import, and even their interpretive meaning. For example, a once-in-a-lifetime transit of Pluto conjoining the natal Moon is rarer and lasts much longer than a monthly transit of Moon to natal Pluto. Even though similar energies are involved, the former can indicate a total death-and-rebirth transformation of one's emotional life and familial relations over 5-10 years, while the latter could be a barely noticeable undercurrent in interpersonal life for just half the day. Remember that rarity equals power, and that transits gain momentum over extended durations. Since so much of astrology has to do with meaning, interpretation, and subjective experience, the objective astronomical counterpoint helps ground us all in a consensus reality that allows a common language and technique.

**Part I: Transit Astrology Basics** covers some of the same ground that was taught in Initiation to Archetypal Astrology and is contained in the Archetypal Astrology Handbook, but begins to expand this foundation. This is the core knowledge necessary to proceed with personal transit astrology practice. **Part II: Going Deeper with Transit Astrology** and **Part III: Advanced Study** examine intermediate and advanced topics in personal transit astrology. Let us now move into the astronomy to better understand the exquisite dance and rhythm of our solar system.



*The intelligence and magic of astrology is that, over millennia, we as a human species have awoken to our place in the Cosmos and have encoded this awakening in the language of the stars.*



# PART ONE






## TRANSIT ASTROLOGY BASICS



# Personal Transit Orbs and Exceptions

Commit to memory the personal transit orbs of influence associated with each major aspect. Note that these same orbs of influence should be used for transits to the angles (ASC, MC, DSC, and IC).

ASPECTS & PERSONAL TRANSITS' ORBS OF INFLUENCE

ASPECT	NAME	ANGLE	PERSONAL TRANSIT ORBS
	Conjunction	0°	3° - 5°
	Opposition	180°	3° - 5°
	Trine	120°	3°
	Square	90°	3° - 5°
	Sextile	60°	3°

## Personal Transits exceptions

- Saturn transits to all planets: 5°-7° approaching and separating (Saturn's nature is to hold on)
- Saturn return: 20° approaching and separating
- Saturn opposing itself: 10° approaching and separating
- Mars transits: 7°- 9° approaching and 3°- 5° separating (Mars' nature is to leap forward and then quickly fade)
- Uranus opposition and return: 8 - 10° approaching and separating
- Transiting planets aspecting themselves activate earlier and stronger

# Essential Points about Personal Transits

*Personal transits are operative from the first moment the planets come into the orb of influence until the very last time they leave the orb of influence, even if they exit the orb of influence during retrograde time periods.*



For example, if transiting Jupiter reaches 1° Pisces, within 4° of a natal Sun placement at 5° Pisces, then stations retrograde and moves all the way back to 22° Aquarius, the transit remains in effect even though Jupiter temporarily appears to be well outside the orb of influence. Transiting Jupiter then stations direct at 22° Aquarius, overtakes the Sun, the transit remaining active until Jupiter passes 10° Pisces (and does not retrograde back past this point).

***The outer planet transits are the largest frame and container for the process of our lives.*** They carry more archetypal power during personal transits, as they last significantly longer than inner planet transits. They therefore deserve more attention in their overarching influence and are where we spend the majority of our time in transit astrology practice. Inner planets activate and bring to life

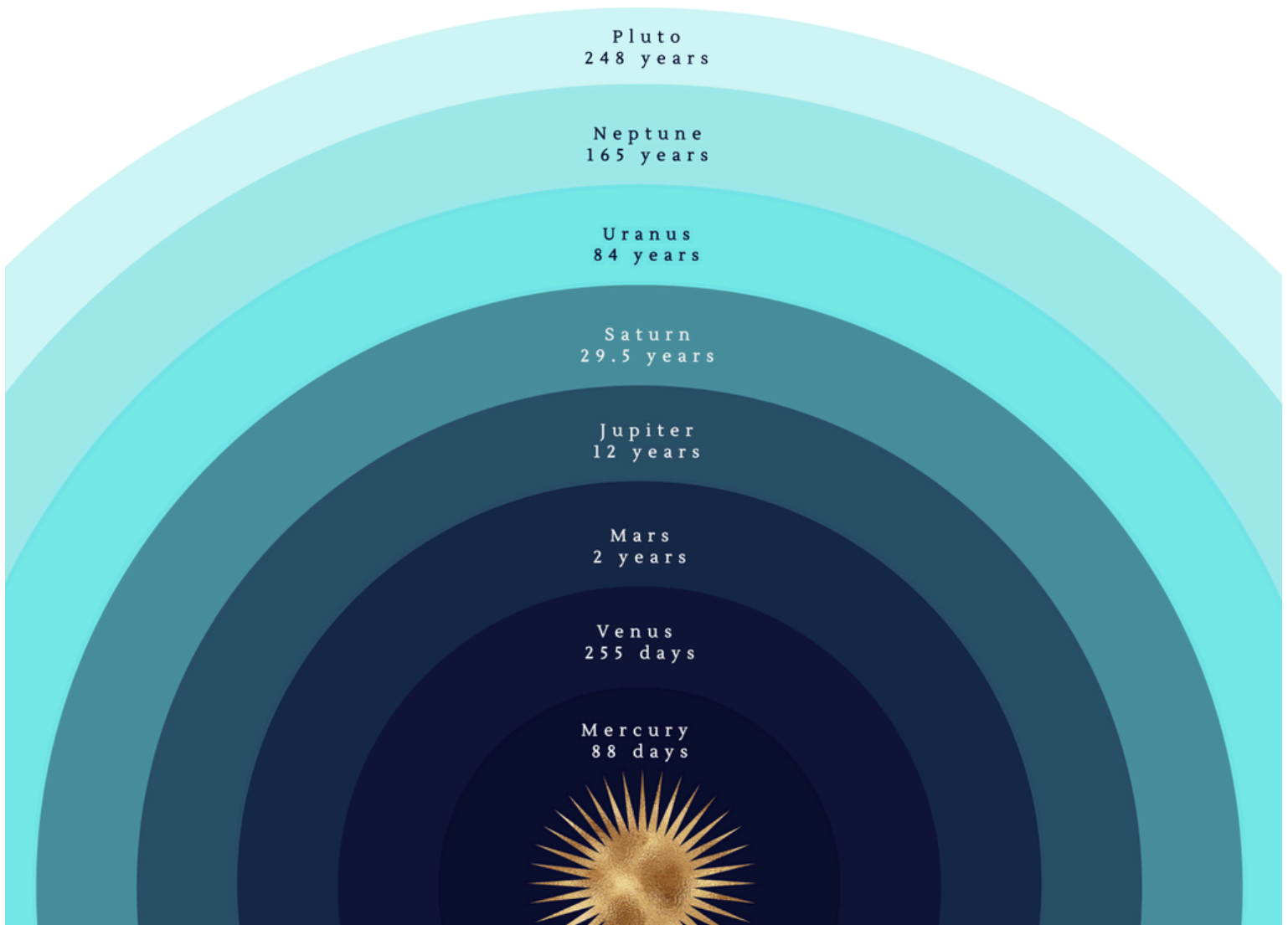
longer-lasting outer planet transits. However, without understanding the nature of the outer planet container first, we cannot fully make sense of and relate to the role played by the inner planets as activators of the larger archetypal power of the outer planet transits. Within this context, the inner planets are the people, events, and drama of our lives, similar to the court cards in the Tarot. For example, when you are in your Saturn return and the Sun conjoins Saturn, the themes of the Saturn return will become more prominent in your life, having a light shined upon them. Were Venus to conjoin Saturn, these themes would become particularly evident in relationships, etc.

When any planet is stationary, meaning staying in the same position in the sky—which occurs before going retrograde and direct—its transiting power increases, i.e., when a planet stations within a degree or so of a natal planet (by conjunction or other major aspects), the extended duration of the transit increases its potency and impact.

Remember, transits are fields of energy, just as aspects are in the natal chart. Transits activate the fields of energy of natal configurations. For example, when two natal planets are in a 5° conjunction, both planets will be activated when one is activated, even if the other is outside the orb of influence.

# Orbital Periods around the Sun

The illustration and table below summarize the length of time it takes for each planet to orbit the Sun (orbital period), which for all planets outside the earth's orbit is the same as the amount of time it takes to move around the chart (tropical period). Commit these planetary orbital periods to memory.



N A M E	O R B I T   A R O U N D   S U N
P l u t o	2 4 8   y e a r s
N e p t u n e	1 6 5   y e a r s
U r a n u s	8 4   y e a r s
S a t u r n	2 9 . 5   y e a r s
J u p i t e r	1 2   y e a r s
M a r s	2   y e a r s
V e n u s	2 2 5   d a y s *
M e r c u r y	8 8   d a y s *
S u n	- - *
M o o n	- - *

\* While the orbital period of planets outside the earth's orbit is equal to the time it takes them to circle the chart (tropical period), planets inside the Earth's orbit take 1 year to go around the chart. For astronomical reasons, Venus and Mercury always appear relatively close to the Sun from the earth's point of view, and thus take about the same time as the Sun to go around the chart, 1 year. The Moon takes 27.3 days to go around the chart (orbiting the earth).

# Length of Personal Transit according to Transiting Planet

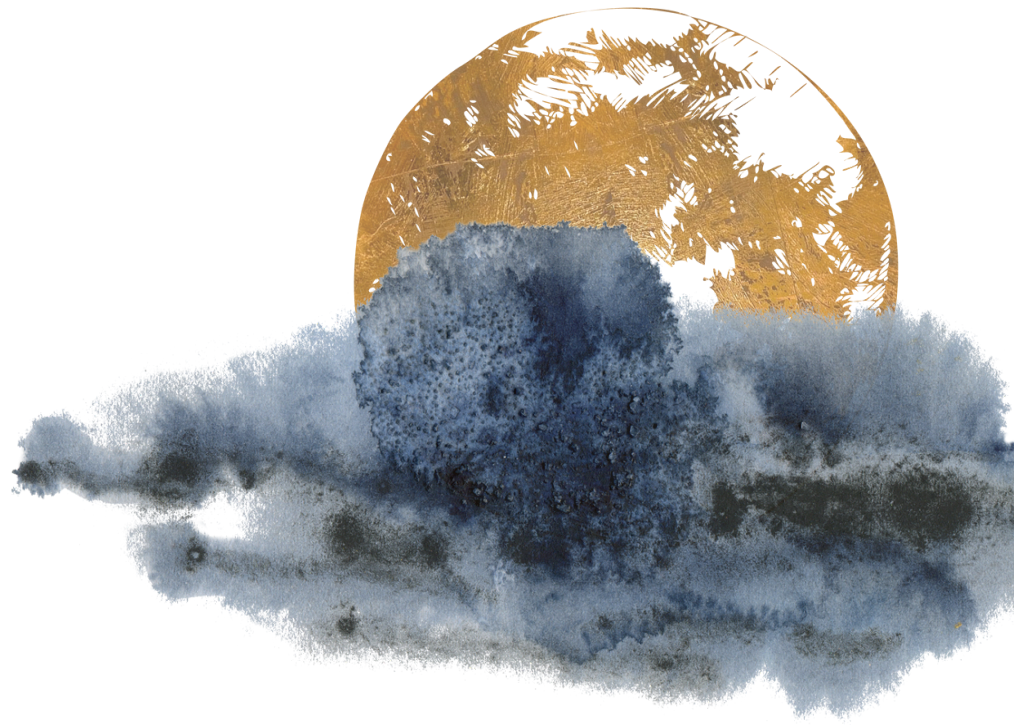
By applying the personal transit orbs of influence to the planetary speeds implicit in the orbital periods, we can calculate approximately how long a transit by a given planet will last. Commit to memory the length of personal transit by each planet:

PLANET	LENGTH OF PERSONAL TRANSIT
Pluto	5-10 years (depends on where it is in orbit around Sun)
Neptune	4-6 years
Uranus	3-4 years (except Uranus aspecting itself)
Saturn	1-2 years (except Saturn aspecting itself)
Jupiter	1 month – 1 year (depends on retrograde motion)
Mars	2-3 weeks (except during retrograde: up to 6 months)
Venus	1 week (except during retrograde: up to 4 months)
Mercury	1 week (except during retrograde: up to 6 weeks)
Sun	A few days
Moon	Half day

Several points to keep in mind:

- Due to the pronounced eccentricity of Pluto's orbit, it has a correspondingly varied transit length.
- Uranus and Saturn oppositions and returns will last longer than the given values because of their wider orbs of influence (see Personal Transit Exceptions on page 6).
- As discussed above, retrograde motion that occurs during a transit will increase its duration (and potency).

Now that we have examined orbital periods and lengths of transits, it is worth reiterating how crucial it is to take in the relative lengths of transits, which are longer and which are shorter. As mentioned in the introduction, a once in a lifetime transit of Pluto conjoining the natal Moon is rarer and lasts much longer than a monthly transit of Moon to natal Pluto—5-10 years once-in-a-life versus 12 hours every month. Because the outer planets move more slowly, and thus have longer orbital periods, they have correspondingly longer transit lengths and occur more rarely. This makes their transits more important than inner planet transits, who move more quickly, and thus have shorter orbital periods, correspondingly shorter transit lengths, and occur more frequently. As mentioned, inner planets often activate longer lasting outer planet transits.



## Duration of Planets in Signs

The table below shows the amount of time it takes each planet to traverse one zodiac sign. These values are derived by dividing the time it takes each planet to go around the chart by 12, the number of zodiac signs. Refer to the orbital periods table and perform these calculations yourself. Meditate on these durations and speeds, along with their significance for the natal chart. For example, someone born with Neptune in Scorpio was part of a long 14-year time window, while someone born with Venus in Scorpio was part of a relatively short, several-week time window.






NAME	DURATION IN SIGN
Pluto	~ 21 years (12 - 31 years)
Neptune	14 years
Uranus	7 years
Saturn	2.5 years
Jupiter	12 - 13 months
Mars	6 - 7 weeks
Venus	4 - 5 weeks
Mercury	15 - 60 days (depending on Rx)
Sun	30 days
Moon	2.5 days

# Personal Transits: How it all fits together

The first table below combines the information on orbital periods with the length of personal transit by each planet (Chiron and the Lunar Nodes are additionally included on this table). The second table recaps the personal transit orbs of influence by major aspect. All of this information is included on one page for ease of comparison and reference. Reflect on the coherence of this information and commit it to memory.

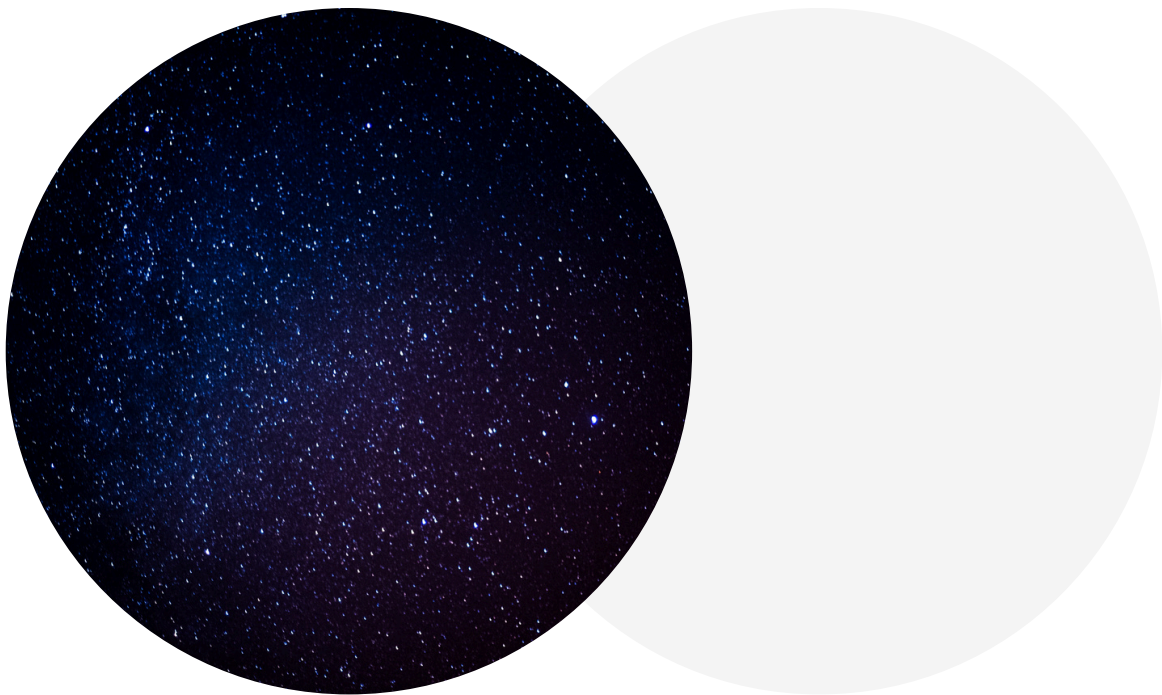
NAME	ORBIT AROUND SUN	LENGTH OF PERSONAL TRANSIT
Pluto	248 years	5-10 years (depends on where it is in orbit around Sun)
Neptune	165 years	4-6 years
Uranus	84 years	3-4 years (except Uranus aspecting itself)
Chiron	50 years	3-4 years
Saturn	29.5 years	1-2 years (except Saturn aspecting itself)
Nodes	18.6 years	6 months
Jupiter	12 years	1 month – 1 year (depends on retrograde motion)
Mars	2 years	2-3 weeks (except during retrograde: up to 6 months)
Venus	225 days	1 week (except during retrograde: up to 4 months)
Mercury	88 days	1 week (except during retrograde: up to 6 weeks)
Sun	--	A few days
Moon	--	Half day

## ASPECTS & PERSONAL TRANSITS' ORBS OF INFLUENCE

ASPECT	NAME	ANGLE	PERSONAL TRANSIT ORBS
	Conjunction	0°	3°-5°
	Opposition	180°	3°-5°
	Trine	120°	3°
	Square	90°	3°-5°
	Sextile	60°	3°

# Beginning to Make Meaning of Personal Transits

Now that we have gone over the basics of transit technique, let's review the basics of the meaning of transits. The lists of keywords below briefly encapsulate the energy of each transiting planet. Here the emphasis is on participation. By becoming conscious of these energies, we may participate in weaving them into time. We co-create alongside these divine forces by receiving their medicine, thereby helping to shape their manifestation in the fabric of our lives.



# Time Weavers:

## The Alchemy of each Transiting Planet

*How to use the medicine of each transiting planet*



### Sun

radiate, channel, emanate,  
shine a light, creative life force,  
energy



### Jupiter

expand, grow, elevate, crown,  
success, achievement, full  
bloom, amplify, magnify



### Moon

family system,  
psychosomatically, embodied,  
felt, relational matrix



### Saturn

manifest, incarnate, bond,  
weave fate into matter, ground,  
mature, concretize, make real,  
sever, cut cords, end



### Mercury

communicate, message, idea,  
information, travel, connection  
through the mind



### Uranus

liberate, change, breakthrough,  
innovate, experiment, rebirth,  
revolutionize, rebel, overthrow,  
insight, revelation, epiphany



### Venus

create, share and receive  
beauty, love, artistry, romance,  
friendship, value, currency



### Neptune

healing, wholeness, merging,  
communing, enchanting,  
spiritualizing, weakening,  
dissolving, compassion, intuition



### Mars

courage, bravery, assertion,  
activation, forward movement,  
will power, creative fire



### Pluto

transforming, evolving,  
deepening, intensifying, wilding,  
death-rebirth, surfacing,  
excavating, digging, instinctual,  
sexual power

# Simple Personal Transits with Examples

When a transiting planet is within the orb of influence of a natal planet by major aspect a transit occurs. The lived content of this transit is an expression of the two planetary archetypes involved, that of the transiting planet and that of the natal planet. The part of the personality or psyche that is related to the natal planet is activated by the energy of the transiting planet.

For example, when transiting Mars, the planet of active exertion, aligns with natal Venus, the planet of relationship and grace, interpersonal dynamics tend to become lively and flirtatious, commonly associated with dance, that energetic yet elegant partnered pastime. Mars can be seen to come in and animate existing Venusian social relations. The Venus potential which is static in the natal chart is brought to life by the dynamism of transiting Mars. However, is important not to over-emphasize a one-directional dynamic, where only the transiting

*The relationship between the transiting planet and the natal planet, their mutual activation of energies, is the core dynamic of transit astrology.*

planets acts upon the natal one. Ultimately both participate in a field of energy which creates a two-way street between them, Venus softening and curving the abrupt angles and attacks of Mars, just as much as Mars invigorates Venus' creative potentials.

The relationship between the transiting planet and the natal planet, their mutual activation of energies, is the core dynamic of transit astrology. **Which planets are involved and that they are in relationship is much more important than the aspect they form to one another.** Many students become preoccupied by the specific

meaning of each major aspect and lose sight of the preeminence of the planetary relationship itself. That being said, we can state briefly that the dynamic aspects (conjunction, square, and opposition) are typically more visible and dramatic, presenting a challenge which one must rise to meet, while the confluent aspects (trine and sextile) flow with ease and are typically experienced as gifts, if they are noticed at all.

Now let's consider an example of an outer planet transit. With transiting Neptune squaring natal Venus, a 4-6-year transit, one may experience a period of idealization in love. This person meets the seemingly perfect partner and places them on a pedestal, blind to their faults and humanity. Over the course of a many-year relationship, chinks in the armor begin to show, culminating in a final unveiling and reversal that leaves the relationship devastated. The fairytale romance has been seen through, which though painful, may have lasting positive effects on the person's ability to find a truly compatible partner.

Now let's add an inner planet activation to this longer outer planet transit

example. Consider a 2-3 week Mars transit that conjoins transiting Neptune in a square to natal Venus. Whereas earlier, Mars-Venus was the energy of coordinated dance, here it may manifest differently due to the context of the Neptune transit. Imagine this Mars transit happens late in the Neptune transit, when the chinks in the armor are beginning to show. Mars may show up as a blowout multi-day or even multi-week argument, perhaps a turning point where the harsh exchange makes it impossible to go back to idyllic coupledness.

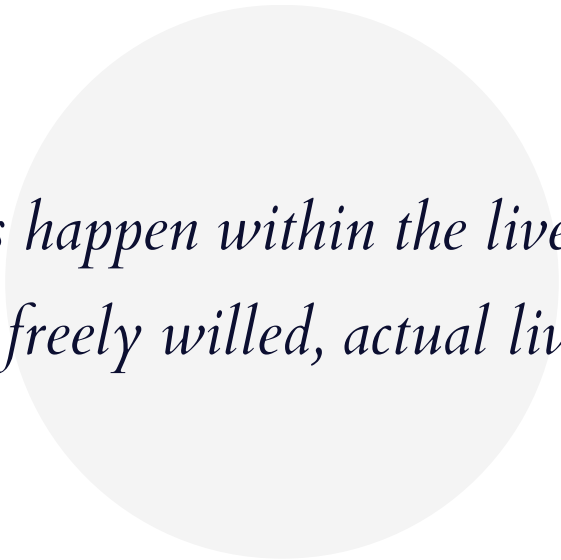
All transits happen within the lived narrative of freely willed actual lives, so only the context of those actual lives and the decisions made will flesh out exactly how the transit will manifest. Astrology is never concretely predictive but always only archetypally predictive. Mars does not always mean a fight, nor is Neptune-Venus always idealization in love. This example, like all examples in this guide, only offers a possible expression of the archetypes' multivalent possibilities and should not be taken as the definitive description of what happens under Neptune-Mars-Venus.

Likewise, whenever you read astrological “cookbooks” (interpretations of natal placements or of transits), you must read them metaphorically, identifying the archetypes behind the concrete statements. Life would be incredibly rote and scripted if every Mars-Venus transit meant a fight with a loved one, just as much as if it invariably meant going dancing. Read interpretations as possibilities, potentials, and invocations of the multivalent and multidimensional archetypes they describe.

Robert Hand's *Planets in Transit* is a veritable Bible of transit interpretation,

and should always be read in the way just described. Do not be overly literal and get hung up on the concrete details. Read through the text to its hidden core of universal meaning.

Finally, the sign and house placement of both transiting and natal placements condition how a transit manifests. However, we believe these factors are secondary to the considerations focused upon here, adding color and nuance but not changing the core dynamics. Signs and houses are better left to a later stage of transit study so as not to lose the forest in the trees.



*All transits happen within the lived narrative  
of freely willed, actual lives.*

## PRACTICE

# Ways to Contemplate & Activate Future Transits

Listed below are ways to think about and work with your transits. Again, the emphasis here is on participation. Astrology has always inhabited the paradox of prediction and self-determination, providence and agency, fate and freewill. There would not be much sense in knowing the future if there were no way to negotiate what comes to pass. These avenues will lead you into a deeper dialogue with the cosmos, thereby empowering you to actualize the destiny you are drawn to.

01     **READ** about your transits from as many trusted sources as possible.

02     **JOURNAL** about your transits as often as you can.

03     **TALK** about your transits with as many trusted astrologers as possible.

04     **ASK** the planets involved what they would like for you to see and watch for this to be revealed to you.

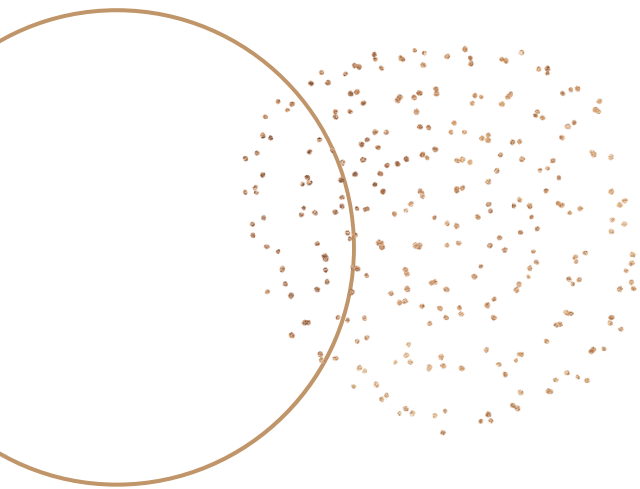
05     **REFLECT** upon your transits as often as you can.

06     **LISTEN** from within and from without.

*As long as you remember that you are evolving and changing, the archetypes are evolving and changing, and that we each have our own filters and unconscious biases (which is why we need outside reflection from trusted others) then you are doing your part.*



PART TWO  
GOING DEEPER  
WITH TRANSIT ASTROLOGY



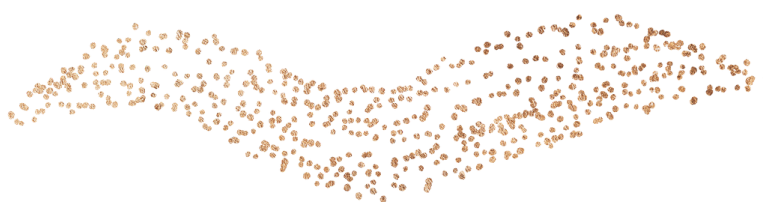
# Planetary Retrogradation

Every astronomical feature of our solar system has some astrological meaning, and planetary retrogradation is no different. However, this is an area where students tend to get fixated and assign an excess of meaning to retrograde motion. It is important to be familiar with the details of each planet's motion—direct versus retrograde—and thereby to contextualize the amount of meaning we should assign to a planet's retrograde motion, both natively and by transit. For example, as shown in the table below, it is more significant to have your natal Venus retrograde as opposed to any outer planet, since Venus is only retrograde for an average of 27 days per year, while the outer planets are retrograde almost half the year (remember rarity equals power). We should not assign an excess of meaning to the outers' retrograde motion since it is the case nearly half the time.

When a transiting planet is retrograde, the most important factor is the increased duration of the transit, rather than an altered quality to the transit. Also more important is whether the retrograde motion takes the planet closer to or further from exactitude. In the first case, the transiting planet has reached exactitude with the natal planet, passed it, and then gone retrograde back toward exactitude, while in the second case the transiting planet goes retrograde during the approach to the natal planet, not reaching exactitude until after the retrograde period. The first case renews the intensity of a transit that was already exact, while the second case is an ebbing or hesitation before a transit's climax at first exactitude. The qualitative change involved in a retrograde transit is extremely subtle and is often focused upon too much in early transit study—such nuances are better set aside at first and reserved for advanced study.

The table below shows how long, how often, and for what portion of their orbital period cycle each planet is retrograde. The fourth column is a reminder of each planet's orbital period for easy comparison. Perform the calculations yourself, dividing each planet's orbital period by the duration of its retrograde motion to derive the percent of the orbital period that it is in retrograde motion. Meditate on this information in light of the fact that rarity equals power.

DURATION OF PLANETARY RETRGRADATION				
PLANET	DURATION OF RX	FREQUENCY	% OF ORBITAL PERIOD	ORBIT AROUND SUN
♀ Mercury	3 weeks	3 times per year	17 %	88 days
♀ Venus	40 days	every 18 months	7 %	225 days
♂ Mars	60 - 80 days	every 2 years	9 %	2 years
♃ Jupiter	110 days	once per year	30 %	12 years
♄ Saturn	135 days	once per year	36 %	29.5 days
♅ Uranus	150 days	once per year	41 %	84 years
♆ Neptune	157 days	once per year	43 %	165 years
♇ Pluto	156 - 161 days	once per year	44 %	248 years



# Outer Planet Retrogrades

## 2021 Dates & Ranges

Below are the dates and ranges for outer planet retrogradation in 2021. This part of the practice helps ground the general knowledge we have learned about retrograde motion for any given year. Use this as an example of how to write out these dates and ranges. Do it at the beginning of each year and post it somewhere visible and handy for yourself. To go further, pay attention to the dates when an outer planet enters a new sign.



### Saturn Retrograde

May 23 - October 11 from 13° Aquarius to 6° Aquarius



### Uranus Retrograde

August 15, 2020 - January 14, 2021 from 10° Taurus to 6° Taurus

August 20, 2021 - January 17, 2022 from 14° Taurus to 10° Taurus



### Neptune Retrograde

June 25 - December 2 from 23° Pisces to 20° Pisces



### Pluto Retrograde

April 27 - October 5 from 26° Capricorn to 24° Capricorn

# Inner Planet Retrogrades & Eclipses

## 2021 Dates & Ranges

Below are the dates and ranges for outer planet retrogradation in 2021. This part of the practice helps ground the general knowledge we have learned about retrograde motion for any given year. Use this as an example of how to write out these dates and ranges. Do it at the beginning of each year and post it somewhere visible and handy for yourself. To go further, pay attention to the dates when an outer planet enters a new sign.



### Mercury Retrograde

- January 30 – February 21  
from 26° Aquarius to 11° Aquarius
- May 29 – June 22  
from 24° Gemini to 16° Gemini
- September 27 – October 23  
from 25° Libra to 10° Libra



### Venus Retrograde

- December 19th – January 29th, 2022  
from 26° Capricorn to 11° Capricorn



### Eclipses

- *Total Lunar Eclipse*  
on May 26 at 5° Gemini
- *Annular Solar Eclipse*  
on June 10 at 19° Gemini
- *Partial Lunar Eclipse*  
on November 19 at 27° Scorpio
- *Total Solar Eclipse*  
on December 4 at 12° Sagittarius

# New & Full Moons

## 2021 Dates

### JAN

13th: New Moon at 23°  
Capricorn

28th: Full Moon at 9° Leo

### FEB

11th: New Moon at 23°  
Aquarius

27th: Full Moon at 8° Virgo

### MAR

13th: New Moon at 23° Pisces

28th: Full Moon at 8° Libra

### APR

12th: New Moon at 22° Aries

27th: Full Moon at 7° Scorpio

### MAY

11th: New Moon at 21°  
Taurus

26th: Full Moon (Lunar  
Eclipse) at 5° Sagittarius

### JUN

10th: New Moon (Solar  
Eclipse) at 19° Gemini

24th: Full Moon at 3°  
Capricorn

### JUL

10th: New Moon at 18°  
Capricorn

24th: Full Moon at 1°  
Aquarius

### AUG

8th: New Moon at 16° Leo

22nd: Full Moon at 29°  
Aquarius

### SEP

7th: New Moon at 14° Virgo

20th: Full Moon at 28° Pisces

### OCT

6th: New Moon at 13° Libra

20th: Full Moon at 27° Aries

### NOV

4th: New Moon at 12° Scorpio

19th: Full Moon (Lunar  
Eclipse) at 27° Taurus

### DEC

4th New Moon (Solar Eclipse)  
at 12° Sagittarius

19th: Full Moon at 27° Gemini

# Going Deeper:

## The Meaning of the Planets Transits

In Part I, we examined the basic meaning of the 10 planets in transit. Now we will elaborate and go deeper with each planet. We will also add Chiron, the lunar nodes, eclipses, new & full moons, and Mercury retrograde into the mix.



### The Sun

Activates, energizes, catalyzes, highlights, illuminates, shines a light, infuses energy and movement, brings to conscious awareness, ego consolidation, integration with the self, process of individuation, encounters with solar figures in your life.



### The Moon

Brings into realm of psyche and soma, feelings, emotions, moods, relationships, family, home, subconscious, the body, community, place, belonging, encounters with lunar figures in your life.



### Mercury

Clarify, analyze, mental awareness, conscious thought, verbal discussion, articulation, understanding through dialogue, mapping, categorizing, meaning-making, story-telling, narration, reading, listening, traveling, learning, education, linear thought process, rational thinking, air element of intellectual processing, a message, quickening of the mind.



### Venus

Socialize, beautify, bring into relationship – friendship, partnership, pleasure, receptivity, yin energy, desire, allurements, themes around value(s) and money, reciprocity, mutuality, collaboration, romanticize, encounters with Venusian people in your life.



## Mars

Activate, catalyze, energize, dynamic, move quickly, forceful direction, bring creative fire and passion, yang energy, sexual energy, conflict, anger, aggression, assertiveness, temperamental, impatience, impulsive, frustrate, irritate, encounters with Mars figures in your life.



## Jupiter

Expand, magnify, amplify, grow, enlarge, fill up, spill over, incorporate larger wholes of meaning, philosophical understanding, high principles, justice, meta-awareness/perspective, crown – make royal or regal, blessings, gifts, abundance, good fortune, wealth, success, achievement, reward.



## Saturn

Crystalize, consolidate, manifest, make real, give form, bring down to Earth, into consensus reality, involution, incarnate, negate, obstruct, problems, hardship, difficulty, pain, suffering, loss, death, ending of things, contraction, constriction, oppression, no exit, trapped, imprisoned, rules, governance, order, law, norms, customs, consequences, karma, unresolved issues – wounds – problems, the past, ancestry, wisdom, maturity, aging, finitude, endings, limits, boundaries, cutting cords, refinement, distillation, discernment, prioritize, criticize, judgmental, high standards, ethics, morality, integrity, encounters with Saturnine people and institutions in your life.



## Uranus

Liberate, emancipate, set free, sudden change, radical breakthrough, rebirth, chaos, disruption, creative genius, brilliance, innovation, experimentation, eccentric, avant-garde, lightning-quick, synchronicities, new ideas, new horizons, new worlds, break open, crack, electrify, quicken, rapid succession, usher in the future, revelation, epiphany, insight, revolutionize.



## Neptune

Sensitize, water down, dissolve, weaken, make porous and permeable, spiritualize, bring meaning and wholeness, transcendence, transpersonal experience and view, compassion, empathy, imagination, enchant, magical, mystical, mythical, sense of sacred, timeless, ethereal, other-worldly, non-ordinary states of consciousness, illusion, delusion, deception, projection, transference, fantasy, escapism, addiction.



## Pluto

Deepen, intensify, empower, transform, evolve, excavate, unearth, compost, decay, destroy, fertilize, tectonic shifts, titanic processes, volcanic eruptions, regenerate, reborn, regrow, purify, catharsis, sexualize, instinctual, primal, animal nature, biological, nature, wild, primordial, ancestors, bring power and immensity, driving force of evolution, id, libido, the need to create life, initiation, unconscious emergence of everything hidden: repressed, latent, underground, taboo, forgotten, disavowed, monstrous, shameful, neglected, regulated to the underworld.



## Chiron

Releases wounds, opens for transpersonal healing, tenderizes, vulnerability, courage, wholeness weaving, immortal pain, agony, ancient suffering, lineage work – both multi-lifetime and ancestral, wounded-healer figures into your life.



## South Node

Unresolved wounds, past karma, familial and soul inheritance, hard-earned gifts and abilities, superpowers, past material, old habits and beliefs, stuck patterns, worn out dynamics, life-destroying, worn out tapes



## North Node

Soul's evolutionary intent, dharmic openings – future karma, following your bliss, doors opening, new opportunities, growth, movement forward, uncomfortable and unfamiliar, refreshing, life-enhancing, exciting possibilities, rapid evolution, growth edge, excitement.



## Eclipses

Portal openers, thins the veil between worlds, deepen and intensify, quicken, irrational, dragon energy, powerful, empower, destroy, create, energize, activate, metabolize, no bullshit and no hiding.



## New Moon

Plant seeds, new cycle, new beginning, end of old cycle, set intentions, clarify needs, wants, desires, refine goals and intentions, inward, quiet, calm, still, possibility, hope.



## Full Moon

Blossom, disseminate, outward growth, fullness, activation, ripening, sharing, fullness, bigness, enlarge, magnify, amplify, robustness, illuminate, brightness.

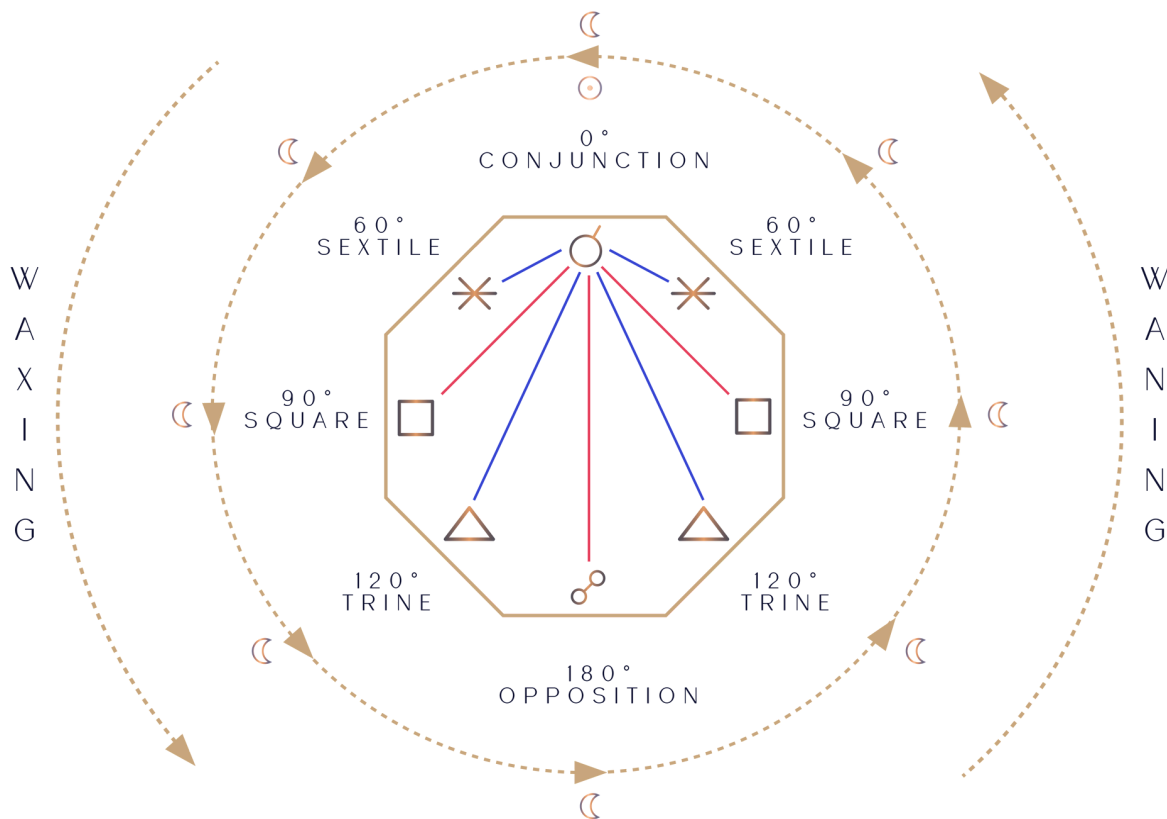


## Mercury Retrograde

Slow down, turn inward, review, revision, reform, edit, introspective, the Hanged Man energy, through the looking glass, ceremonial time, yin in nature, non-linear time and space, unravel, reveal, inside-out, up-side-down, outside of ordinary time.

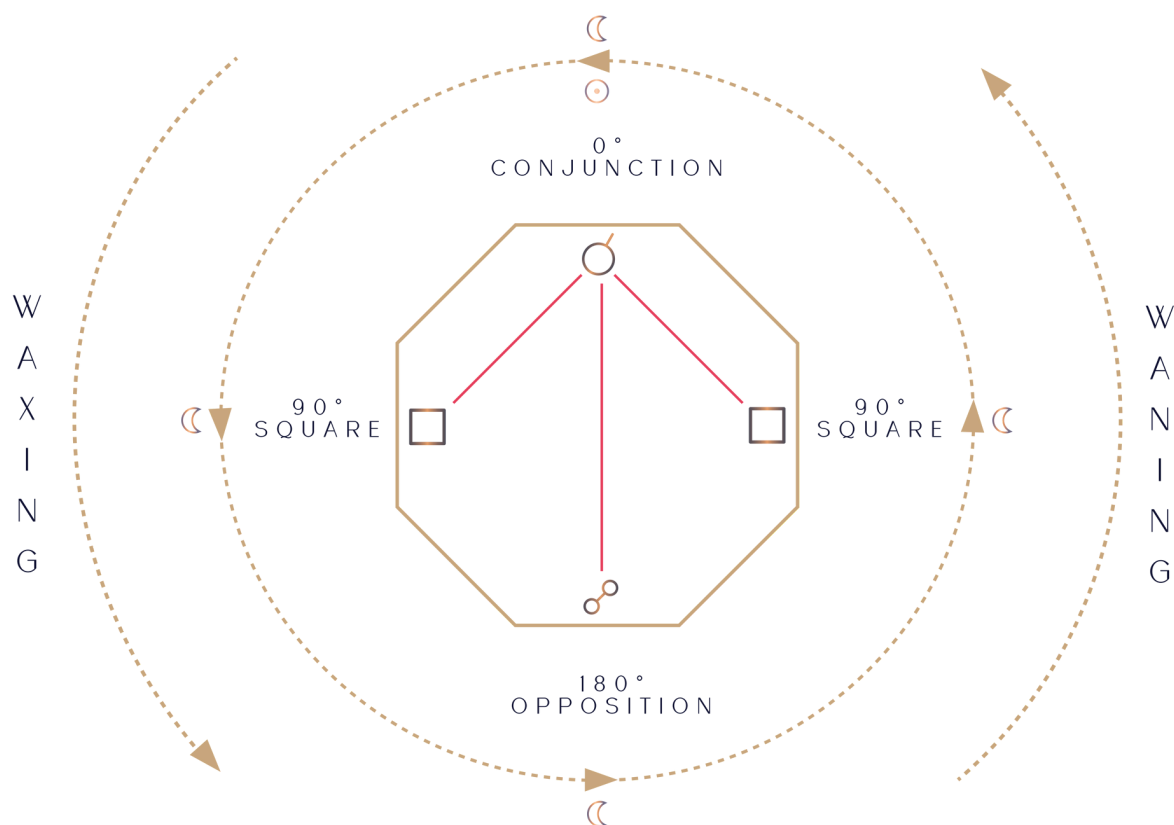
# Sequence of Major Aspects

In Part I, we considered a given transit, such as Jupiter conjunct the Sun, in isolation. We are now ready to study how transits link to one another to form larger arcs of narrative meaning (a phenomenon known as diachronic patterning). After transiting Jupiter conjoins the natal Sun, it continues around the chart, counterclockwise, forming new geometric angles with the Sun over time. The sequence of major aspects is the natural order of geometric angles that are formed between a transiting planet and a natal planet as the former circles the natal chart (the same sequence emerges in world transits between a faster moving planet and a slower moving planet, respectively). Reflect on the fact that we each go through the same order of major aspects, alternating dynamic and confluent aspects (“hard” and “soft” aspects). Consider how challenge and difficulty lead to success and gifts, thereby preparing us for new challenges on a higher spiralic level. This is one of the inherent rhythms of nature and psyche. Remember, we study transit astrology not just as a technical practice, but to learn invaluable lessons about psyche and the cosmos.



# Quadrature Cycles & Diachronic Patterning

If we omit the confluent aspects (sextiles and trines) and consider the sequence of dynamic aspects on their own, we derive the quadrature cycle:




We often focus on the quadrature cycle because its dynamic quality creates the most visible and dramatic unfolding of a series of transits—the most vivid example of diachronic patterning. Both the themes and even the lived content of a transit tend to recur at subsequent hard aspect transits. For example, under a Mars-Moon transit, an adult might get in a power struggle with their older brother, activating deep-seated childhood resentments. If the transit is negotiated well, that person may find the courage to speak up to their brother about their feelings of early wounding. Under a subsequent Mars-Moon transit, another argument may flare up with the same brother over similar issues, but this time, some emotional progress may have accrued from the earlier transit, allowing the conversation to begin in a new place and the relationship to take a step forward.

Borrowing language from Dane Rudhyar, we could sum up the entire quadrature cycle in this way: The influx of new energies that is *seeded* at the conjunction reaches a *crisis in action* at the waxing square, whose successful negotiation brings about a *flowering* at the opposition, leading to a *crisis in consciousness* that evolves the energies from the inside-out, bringing the cycle to a close and to a new beginning at the conjunction.

***However, at the start we should not place too much emphasis on this four-part narrative. Many students overly fixate on these qualities in relation to the aspects involved. Rather, most important is that two planets are in a dynamic aspect relationship to one another and that the transit has a meaningful relationship in terms of theme and content to previous and subsequent transits involving the same transiting and natal planets.***

While the quadrature cycle is the most visible diachronic sequence of transits, it is rather the sequence of major aspects—which includes the confluent sextile and trine—that is truest to life. The challenges of the dynamic aspects shape and hone us, we internalize their lessons, which then become the gifts of the confluent aspects.





## Going Further with Inner Planet Activation

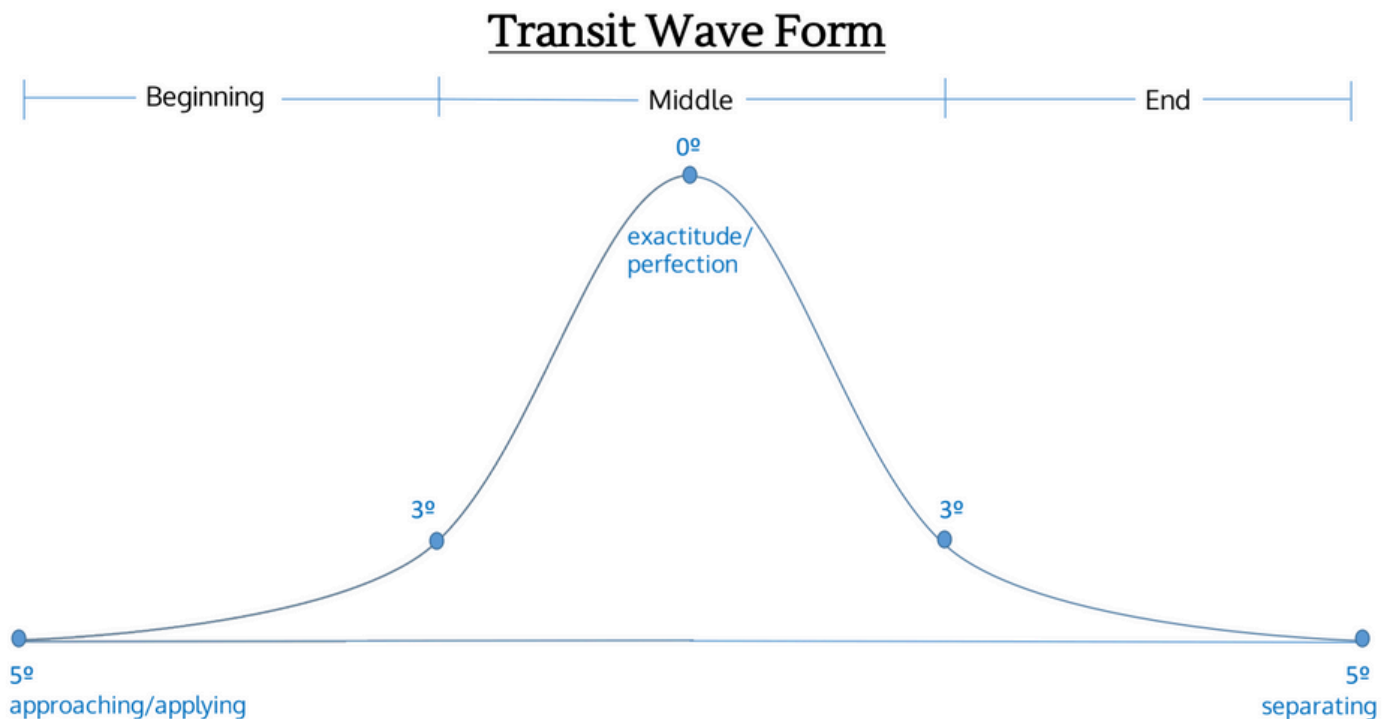
We already mentioned how shorter inner planet transits can activate longer outer planet transits. One salient version of this phenomenon is when the inner planet activator is the same as the natal planet involved in the transit. For example, during a 5-year transit of Neptune to natal Venus, transiting Venus will return to its natal position 5 times. These 5 Venus returns will be especially activating to the longer Neptune-Venus transit due to the archetypal resonance between transiting Venus and natal Venus. Additionally, the 5 returns create a natural subdivision of the longer transit and tend to demonstrate a sequential unfolding of stages (somewhat analogous to the sequence of aspects and quadrature cycle). Each Venus return accents the Neptune-Venus transit, bringing its themes to the forefront, but also evolving the associated life events through a spiralic series, creating the opportunity for an up-leveling and increase in potency.

In a related fashion, new moons, full moons, and eclipses can also act as especially potent inner planet activators. An additional factor to consider within the geometric system of the entire chart is the Sun-Moon oppositional axis formed by the full moon and solar eclipse, in contrast to the single point involved in most transits (including the new moon). The nodal axis itself is another, similar factor, involving two opposed points.

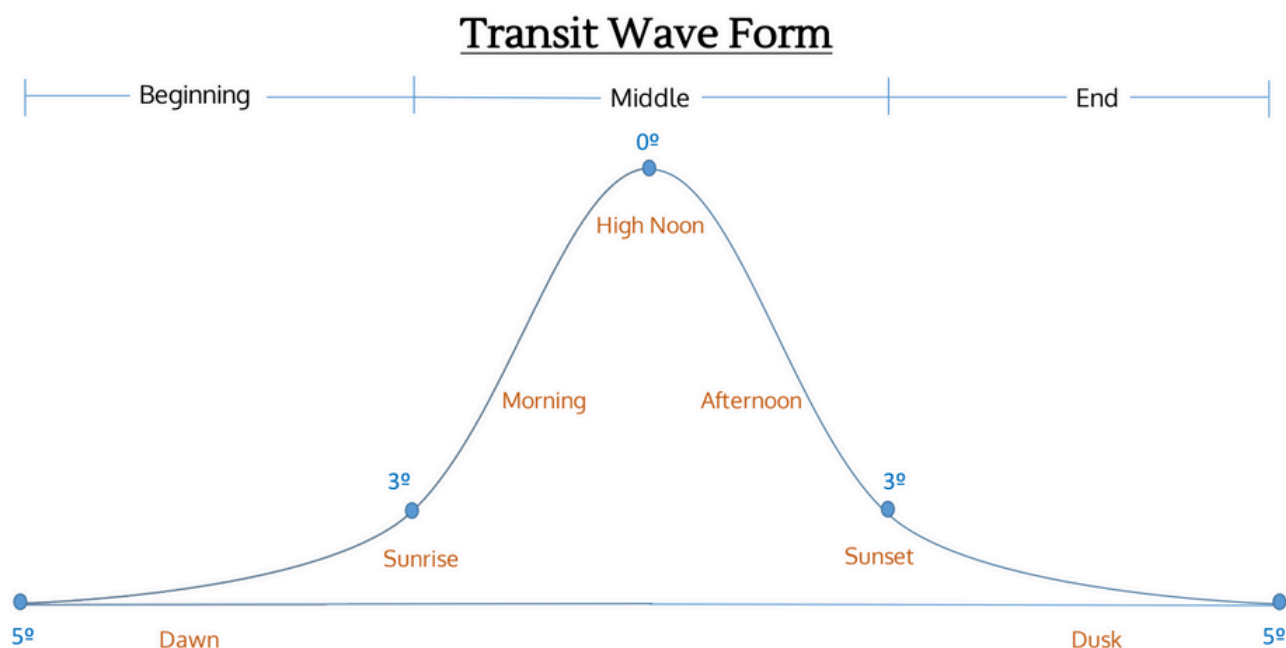
# The Transit Wave Form

The three graphs below show the transit wave form, which breaks down any given transit into a beginning, middle, and end—just like a good story. Each one of our lives is an unfolding narrative, in which transits help illuminate and clarify the content, characters, and meaning of the story.

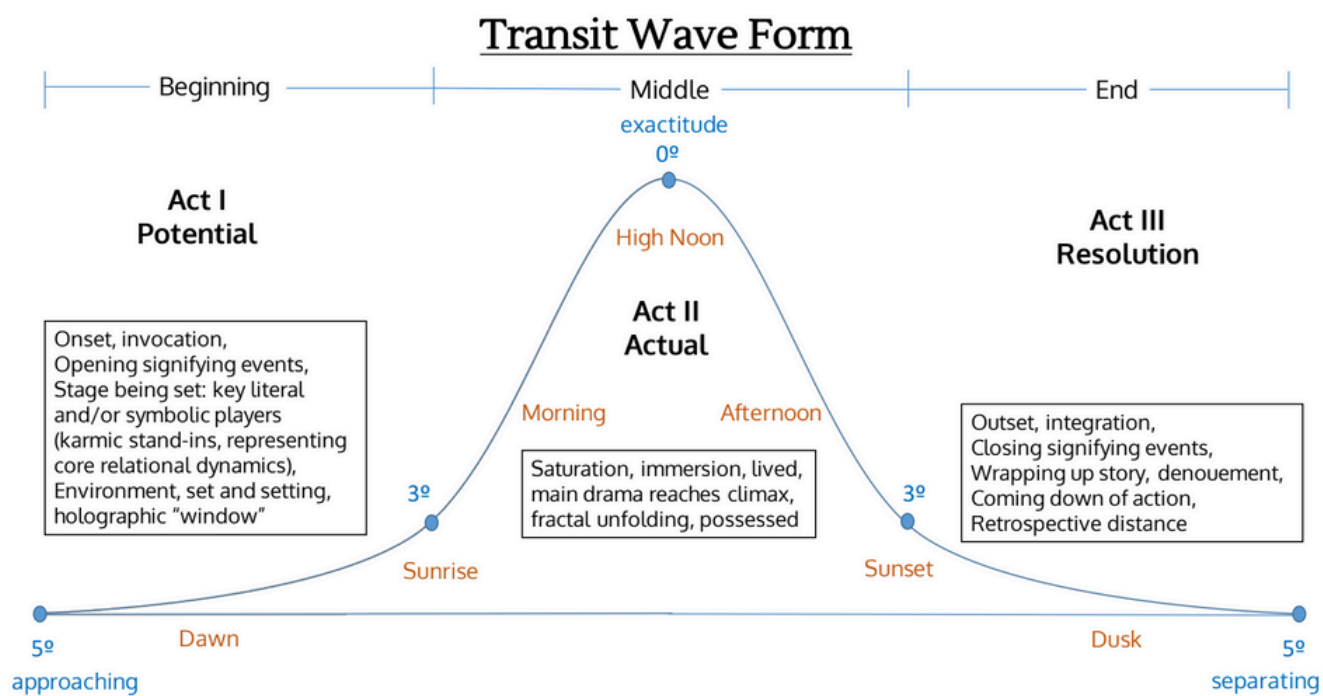
This first graph shows how the drama begins to rise as the transit comes into the 5° orb of influence, really gets cooking within the 3° range, then rises to a climax through the exactitude of the alignment, before descending again in resolution, gradually fading.



The second graph overlays a solar metaphor, relating the times of the day (sunrise, high noon, sunset, etc.) to the story of the transit.



The third graph elaborates the narrative arc of the transit into three acts (potential, actual, resolution).



# Transit Journal

Use the three graphs above in conjunction with the practices outlined below.

01



## Transit in potential

At the onset of a transit, reflect upon the potential manifestations of the archetypal combination in question and write them out in your journal (e.g. Pluto transiting natal Moon: transformation of the family, transformation of the relationship to the mother or nurturing parental figure, etc.).

02



## Transit in actuality

In your journal, track the life events that occur during the time period of the transit and correlate them to the appropriate combination (e.g. Pluto-Moon: death of a family member causes family to reexamine their relationships to that member and to one another, reconfiguring the entire system).

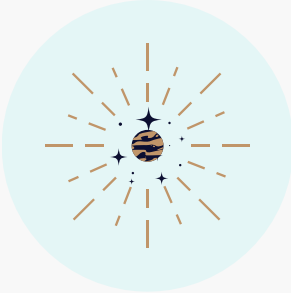
03



### Potential + Actual

Throughout and especially at the end of the transit, reflect upon the events that occurred (2) in light of the general possibilities of the planetary combination (1) and the archetypal narrative associated with that combination. String together the many events in question and make meaning of them through a coherent story (how was your family transformed through the many events that happened during the transit? What is the intelligence operating through them? What was trying to be accomplished by your higher self in conjunction with the divine planetary forces?)

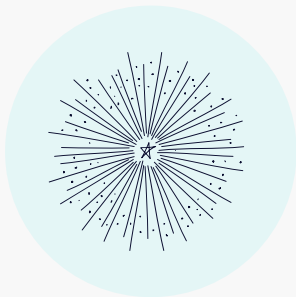
04



### Self-Assessment

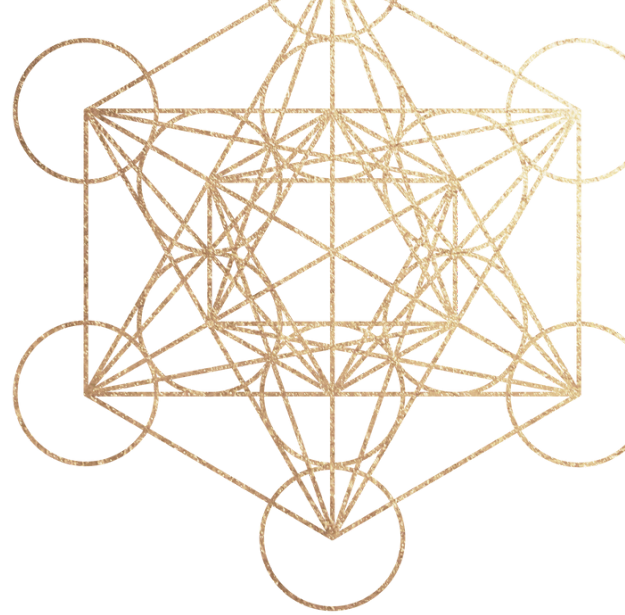
How did the transit go for you? What were the gifts and challenges? What are you most proud of? Where do you wish you had acted differently? How did you rise to meet the transit?

05



### Diachronic Patterning

How do the events and intelligence of this transit relate to past instances of the same archetypal combination (by transit but also natively if applicable)? How will you apply what you have learned to future instances of this transit?



## Diachronic & Synchronic Considerations: Time & Space

“Dia-chronic” means “through time,” and diachronic considerations are those that join together disparate moments in time into larger wholes of meaning. The existence of diachronic patterning—the meaningful and developing relationship between past and future transits—shows us that no transit can ultimately be considered in isolation. This may be compared to the stages of growth in a plant, which are distinct yet connected. While the flowering stage is one of the most dramatic, it could not happen without the prior phases of seeding, budding, and growth. Each stage bears a meaningful relationship to the ones before and after it, without being identical to them.

Similarly, no planet or aspected pair of planets in a natal or world transit chart can ultimately be considered in isolation—just as the flower cannot ultimately be considered independently of the stalks and roots. If I have a natal Sun-Jupiter conjunction square to natal Pluto, descriptions of Sun-Jupiter in isolation will never adequately convey the full Sun-Jupiter-Pluto complex of my psyche. Likewise, transits to any one of these three planets will activate the entire field of the complex.

“Syn-chronic” means “at the same time,” and synchronic considerations are those that join together different planets, events, or other factors happening at the same moment into

larger wholes of meaning. The synchronic moment in the astrological example above is the moment of birth, when Sun, Jupiter, and Pluto are aligned. In the plant example, it is the living moment when flower, stalk, and root coexist and function together. Because synchronic considerations are happening at the same time, the diversity of the factors involved play out in space. We are relating different planets to one another in the space of the natal or world transit chart, which is a picture of the real space of the heavens.

We begin discovering the meaning of planetary placements in astrology by examining one planet and then one pair of planets at a time. We then build upon this foundation of isolated discrete units by joining them into an unfurling whole, understanding the chart and transits like a complex living organism

and ecosystem—a flower opening its many petals, held aloft to the sun by a stalk fed by roots in the earth on the fullness of a midsummer's day. Ultimately, meaning in astrology cannot be sequestered into detached units but is joined both through time and through space in the cosmological fabric of our solar system. The next section elaborates this argument.



# The Systems View



The systems view in astrology is an important concept that can be contrasted with an atomistic view. The systems view understands the chart as an integrated whole, while the atomistic view divides the chart into discrete chunks of meaning. These concepts are operative both spatially and temporally. In a spatial atomistic view, each planetary placement in the chart is considered complete unto itself without reference to the other spaces/placements in the chart. In a temporal atomistic view, each natal chart or world transit chart is taken as a snapshot, complete unto itself without reference to the moments and charts that come before and after it. While this description is a bit of a caricature, it illustrates the far end of the spectrum, better clarifying the systems view by contrast.

In a spatial systems view each planetary placement in the chart is considered intrinsically connected to the other spaces/placements in the chart—i.e., inherently in relationship and only understood through those relations.

In a temporal systems view, each natal chart or world transit chart is seen as a moment in the fluid unfolding of time, not fully comprehensible without reference to the moments and charts that come before and after.

In the spatial systems view, planets cannot be considered in isolation. Once the first planet in a stellium, T-square, or other aspect pattern is activated, so is the whole complex. And this holds for any aspect: If you have Venus square Pluto natally, you cannot think about transits to your Venus in isolation from Pluto—Pluto will always be activated every time Venus is. Likewise, if there is a Uranus square Saturn world transit in the sky, you cannot consider Uranus transits to your chart in isolation from the Saturn transits that are activating those same placements. Finally, if transiting Uranus

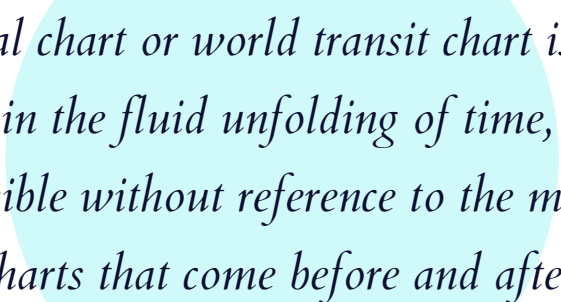
Finally, if transiting Uranus square Saturn in the sky is lighting up your natal Venus square Pluto, all four planets must come into the equation, as a connected system. While this demands a higher level of intricacy in our astrological analysis, it also reduces the number of moving pieces we have to track by connecting them into larger wholes (e.g. my Venus-Pluto complex, or the Uranus-square-Saturn world transit).

In the temporal systems view, no natal or world transit chart can be considered in isolation. This connects back to the sequence of major aspects and the quadrature cycle. Each transit is part of an unfolding story that has meaningful predecessors and descendants. But that's not all. What was happening to Mercury before and after the moment of your birth? Was it recently or soon to be retrograde? Would such motion bring it back into orb with an aspect you may have otherwise overlooked in your chart, since aspects are operative from the first moment they come into orb until the last moment they leave? Additionally, if Mercury had stationed in the same position and just gone direct in your birth chart, its duration in that position would add weight, as opposed to if it was at top speed, only briefly occupying its degree in your chart. Likewise, in a world transit chart, it is crucial to understand the full durations of the operative transits and their relative lengths, which involves recourse to past and future charts and moments in time. Even though they happen on the same day, we cannot ascribe the same significance to a lengthy generational transit like Uranus conjunct Neptune that we would to a brief pass of Moon over Mars!

To sum up: In the spatial systems view, the different spaces or planetary placements in a chart connect to one another as a related system. Another way to say this is to talk about synchronic considerations. "Synchronic" means "happening at the same time," as in the case of a snapshot natal or world transit chart, within which we then become concerned with the spatial issues of how the planets are related by aspect into an organic whole. This is not unlike recognizing composition or form in a painting, noticing how every part of the image relates to every other. In astrological terms a salient

higher-level example is how every natal chart is in relationship with every other natal chart by synastry.

All this in contrast to the temporal systems view and diachronic considerations. “Diachronic” means “happening through time” as in development or evolution. Instead of a single moment in time, we are looking at a series of instants through time. This is natal and world transit charts in their temporal contexts—in terms of what came before and what comes after. The temporal systems view relates different, sequential moments to one another by treating time as a flowing extended duration that seamlessly moves forward, inherently interrelating all instants into an organic whole. A great general example of this quality of time is melody: none of the notes of *twinkle, twinkle* in isolation can carry the character of the tune, which is only experienced through time. Another analogy would be the continuity between ancestors and descendants, with each generation bearing the stamp of the one that came before and passing their own on to the next generation.



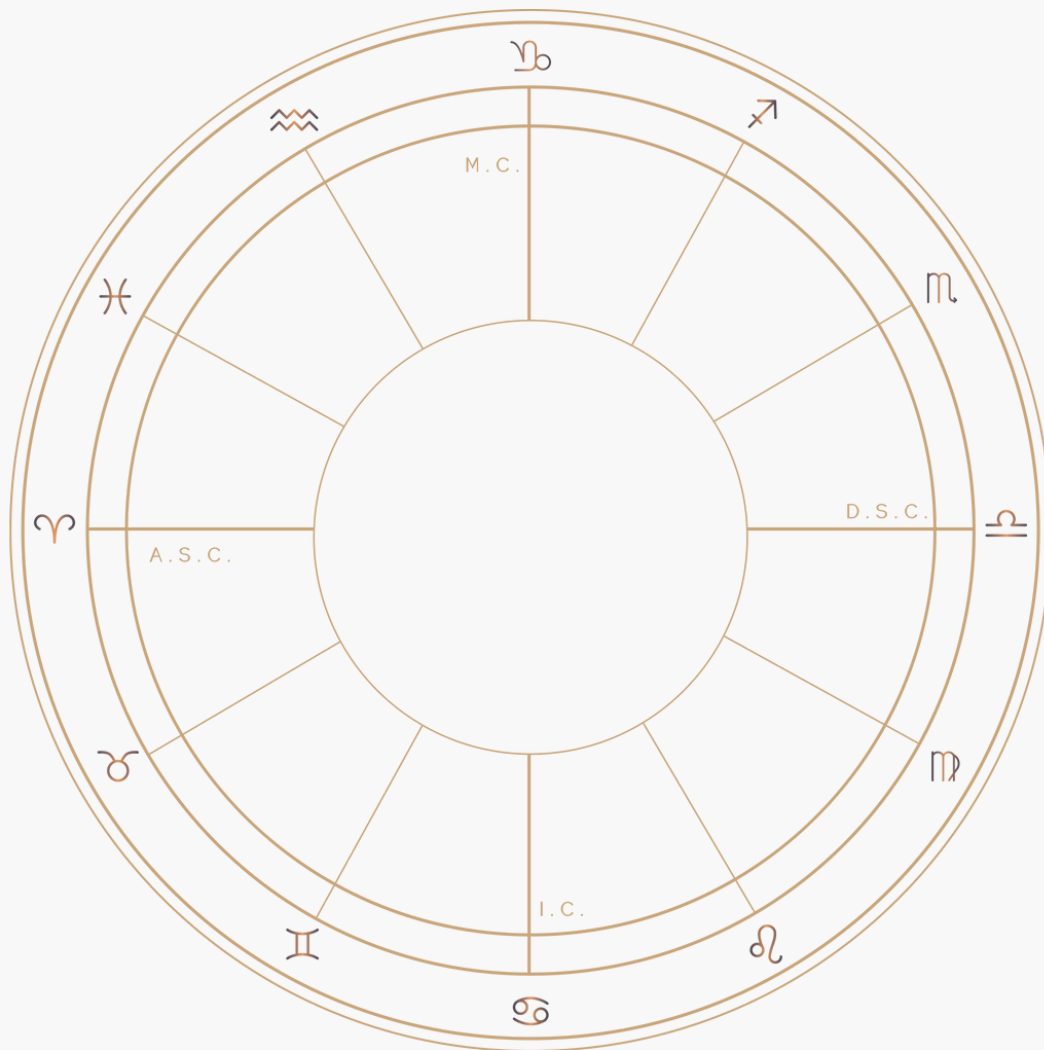
*...each natal chart or world transit chart is seen as a moment in the fluid unfolding of time, not fully comprehensible without reference to the moments and charts that come before and after.*

## PRACTICE

# Natal Complexes

*a synchronic consideration*

Examine your natal chart as an integrated system and identify major aspect patterns and complexes. What is the architecture of your chart, how does each part connect to all the others? Where are the major tectonic plates, where are the fault lines? Locate especially powerful zodiacal degrees where a transiting planet activates one or more complexes.



## PRACTICE

# Sequence of Personal Transits *a diachronic consideration*

Write out the order in which you go through your personal transits and think about the story that is contained in that sequence:

1



Write out the counterclockwise order of the planets in your natal chart. A good starting place may be the planet on the counterclockwise end of the largest open space in your chart, or perhaps a luminary. This is the sequence of transit conjunctions in your chart, as a transiting planet circles the chart conjoining each natal planet in succession.



2



Write out the order of planets in your chart from lowest to highest degree number, regardless of sign. This is the sequence of transits by any aspect in your chart. For example, if I have natal Sun at 0° Cancer, Moon at 2° Libra, and Venus at 5° Pisces, then transiting Mars entering Capricorn will make an opposition to my Sun, followed by a square to my Moon, followed by a sextile to my Venus. Because the sequence of natal planets involved is ultimately cyclic, 0° need not be thought of as the only starting point. Also, based on the position of the transiting planet and the disposition of the natal planets, the aspects formed may be minor ones. This creates variations in how the sequence plays out, since the major aspects will be most prominent.

# Sequence of Personal Transits

*a diachronic consideration*

Continue the practice:



Combine the two above approaches and their variations to find one or more sequences that are meaningful for your unique natal chart. There is no one right way to do this, so tune into the subtleties of your chart and the different stories that emerge from each sequence or part of a sequence (for example, are the challenges of Saturn followed by the blessings of Jupiter, or vice versa, or perhaps only with the transformational fires of Pluto intervening between the two?). Each sequence of planets tells a unique story.

## PRACTICE

# Moon Journal

### *synchronic & diachronic considerations*

Begin tracking the Moon cycle for one whole month. Understand its rhythm, pacing, and the diachronic order in which it activates all the areas of your natal chart through time, as well as the synchronic complexes it activates spatially in your natal chart. This practice combines what we learned in the previous two sections to give us a better systems understanding of the chart, both temporally and spatially, both diachronically and synchronically. This systems view can then be used in understanding longer-lasting transits to the natal chart.



# Universal Transits

A universal transit is a transit of a planet to itself, that is, to its own natal position. Universal transits are experienced by all people at roughly the same age in life. For example, the Saturn return happens to everyone around the ages of 27-31 because Saturn's orbital period is 29.5 years. After this amount of time, Saturn returns to its natal position, regardless of its degree placement in the chart. Likewise, the whole sequence of major aspects of Saturn to itself occurs at similar ages (e.g. the square at 7 and the opposition at 15 years old). This occurs with all planets, however, the term universal transit typically refers to outer planet transits (Jupiter outward), since these mark stages of life by their longer periods.

The tables below show universal transits, the average age at which they occur, and their range of duration. They begin simply with the returns, before adding the quadratures, and finally layering different planets upon the same timeline. Read through these slowly in light of each planet's orbital period. Reflect upon the archetypal life-scripts that emerge from the composites of the different universal transits layered upon one another.

SATURN RETURN	
DURATION OF TRANSIT: 3-4 YEARS	
RETURN	MEAN AGE
1 s t	2 9   y e a r s
2 n d	5 9   y e a r s
3 r d	8 8   y e a r s

SATURN RETURN BY QUADRATURE		
TRANSIT	MEAN AGE	DURATION OF TRANSIT
0th Return	0 years	--
Waxing Square	7 years	1-2 years
Opposition	15 years	2-3 years
Waning Square	22 years	1-2 years
1st Return	29 years	3-4 years
Waxing Square	37 years	1-2 years
Opposition	44 years	2-3 years
Waning Square	52 years	1-2 years
2nd Return	59 years	3-4 years
Waxing Square	66 years	1-2 years
Opposition	74 years	2-3 years
Waning Square	81 years	1-2 years
3rd Return	88 years	3-4 years
Waxing Square	96 years	1-2 years
Opposition	103 years	2-3 years
Waning Square	110 years	1-2 years

URANUS RETURN BY QUADRATURE		
TRANSIT	MEAN AGE	DURATION OF TRANSIT
0th Return	0 years	- -
Waxing Square	21 years	3 - 4 years
Opposition	42 years	4 - 5 years
Waning Square	63 years	3 - 4 years
1st Return	84 years	4 - 5 years

NEPTUNE RETURN BY QUADRATURE		
TRANSIT	MEAN AGE	DURATION OF TRANSIT
0th Return	0 years	- -
Waxing Square	41 years	4 - 6 years
Opposition	82 years	4 - 6 years
Waning Square	124 years*	- -
1st Return	165 years*	- -

*\*Of course, humans do not yet live this long!*

Pluto's waxing square begins between a person's mid-thirties to their mid-nineties! The pronounced eccentricity of Pluto's orbit creates this wide range for its occurrence. For this reason, it is not included in the combined tables below. The values given for the waning square, opposition, and return are averages, which occur outside the human lifespan in any case


PLUTO RETURN BY QUADRATURE		
TRANSIT	MEAN AGE	DURATION OF TRANSIT
0th Return	0 years	- -
Waxing Square	35 - 95 years	5 - 10 years
Opposition	124 years*	- -
Waning Square	186 years*	- -
1st Return	248 years*	- -

*\*Of course, humans do not yet live this long!*



SATURN RETURN, URANUS RETURN, & URANUS OPPOSITION			
PLANET	TRANSIT	MEAN AGE	DURATION OF TRANSIT
Saturn	1st Return	29 years	3 - 4 years
Uranus	Opposition	42 years	4 - 5 years
Saturn	2nd Return	59 years	3 - 4 years
Uranus	1st Return	84 years	4 - 5 years
Saturn	3rd Return	88 years	3 - 4 years

SATURN RETURN, URANUS WAXING SQUARE, OPPOSITION, RETURN, & NEPTUNE SQUARE, OPPOSITION			
PLANET	TRANSIT	MEAN AGE	DURATION OF TRANSIT
Uranus	Waxing Square	21 years	3 - 4 years
Saturn	1st Return	29 years	3 - 4 years
Neptune	Waxing Square	41 years	4 - 6 years
Uranus	Opposition	42 years	4 - 5 years
Saturn	2nd Return	59 years	3 - 4 years
Neptune	Opposition	82 years	4 - 6 years
Uranus	1st Return	84 years	4 - 5 years
Saturn	3rd Return	88 years	3 - 4 years



SATURN QUADRATURE, URANUS QUADRATURE, NEPTUNE SQUARE & OPPOSITION			
PLANET	TRANSIT	MEAN AGE	DURATION OF TRANSIT
Saturn	Waxing Square	7 years	1 - 2 years
Saturn	Opposition	15 years	2 - 3 years
Uranus	Waxing Square	21 years	3 - 4 years
Saturn	Waning Square	22 years	1 - 2 years
Saturn	1st Return	29 years	3 - 4 years
Saturn	Waxing Square	37 years	1 - 2 years
Neptune	Waxing Square	41 years	4 - 6 years
Uranus	Opposition	42 years	4 - 5 years
Saturn	Opposition	44 years	2 - 3 years
Saturn	Waning Square	52 years	1 - 2 years
Saturn	2nd Return	59 years	3 - 4 years
Uranus	Waning Square	63 years	3 - 4 years
Neptune	Opposition	82 years	4 - 6 years
Uranus	1st Return	84 years	4 - 5 years
Saturn	3rd Return	88 years	3 - 4 years

JUPITER RETURN	
DURATION OF TRANSIT: 1 MONTH to 1 YEAR	
RETURN	MEAN AGE
1st	12 years
2nd	24 years
3rd	36 years
4th	47 years
5th	59 years
6th	71 years
7th	83 years
8th	95 years
9th	107 years



NODAL RETURN	
DURATION OF TRANSIT: 6 MONTHS	
RETURN	MEAN AGE
1st	19 years
2nd	37 years
3rd	56 years
4th	74 years
5th	93 years
6th	112 years

IMPORTANT UNIVERSAL TRANSITS			
CELESTIAL BODY	TRANSIT	MEAN AGE	DURATION OF TRANSIT
Saturn	Waxing Square	7 years	1-2 years
Jupiter	1st Return	12 years	1 mo. - 1 yr
Saturn	Opposition	15 years	2-3 years
Nodal	1st Return	19 years	6 months
Uranus	Waxing Square	21 years	3-4 years
Saturn	Waning Square	22 years	1-2 years
Jupiter	2nd Return	24 years	1 mo. - 1 yr
Saturn	1st Return	29 years	3-4 years
Jupiter	3rd Return	36 years	1 mo. - 1 yr
Saturn	Waxing Square	37 years	1-2 years
Nodal	2nd Return	37 years	6 months
Neptune	Waxing Square	41 years	4-6 years
Uranus	Opposition	42 years	4-5 years
Saturn	Opposition	44 years	2-3 years
Jupiter	4th Return	47 years	1 mo. - 1 yr
Chiron	1st Return	50 years	3-4 years
Saturn	Waning Square	52 years	1-2 years

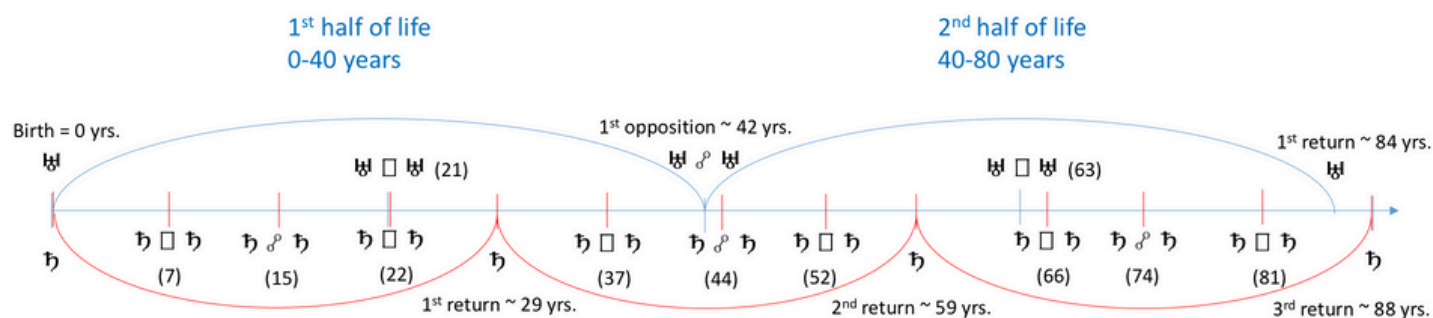
IMPORTANT UNIVERSAL TRANSITS. CONT'D			
CELESTIAL BODY	TRANSIT	MEAN AGE	DURATION OF TRANSIT
Nodal	3rd Return	56 years	6 months
Saturn	2nd Return	59 years	3-4 years
Jupiter	5th Return	59 years	1 mo. - 1 yr
Uranus	Waning Square	63 years	3-4 years
Jupiter	6th Return	71 years	1 mo. - 1 yr
Nodal	4th Return	74 years	6 months
Neptune	Opposition	82 years	4-6 years
Jupiter	7th Return	83 years	1 mo. - 1 yr
Uranus	1st Return	84 years	4-5 years
Saturn	3rd Return	88 years	3-4 years
Nodal	5th Return	93 years	6 months
Jupiter	8th Return	95 years	1 mo. - 1 yr
Chiron	2nd Return	100 years	3-4 years
Jupiter	9th Return	107 years	1 mo. - 1 yr
Nodal	6th Return	112 years	6 months

# Universal Transits of Uranus and Saturn: Psychological Development and Phases of Life

The graph below visualizes the Uranus and Saturn universal transit cycles. While the Uranus opposition divides life into two parts, the Saturn returns divide that same life into 3 parts. Remember that the ages given are averages and that each transit in fact lasts multiple years, causing Uranus and Saturn transits to overlap even when they are not exact hits. This approach is elaborated in Part III: Advanced Study.

## Universal Transits of Uranus and Saturn Psychological Development and Phases of Life

Temple (domain, archetypal perspective, realm, time period) of **Uranus** (individuation) – 2 stages of life:



Temple (domain, archetypal perspective, realm, time period) of **Saturn** (maturation) – 3 stages of life:

1<sup>st</sup> third of life

Adolescence/Youth

0-30 years

2<sup>nd</sup> third of life

Adulthood/Mid-life

30-60 years

3<sup>rd</sup> third of life

Elder years

60-90 years

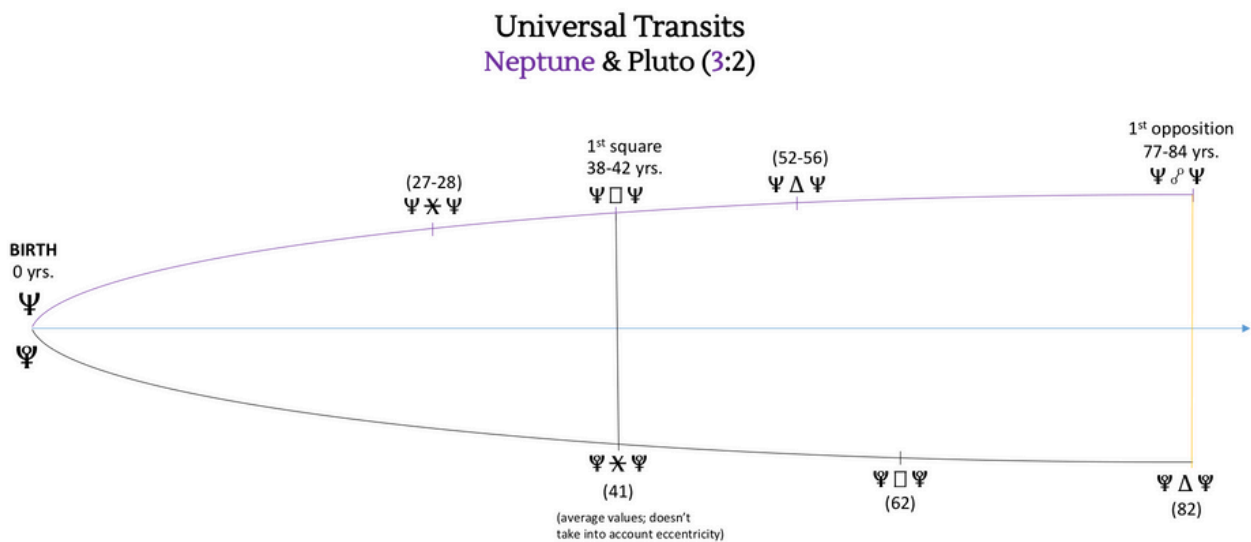
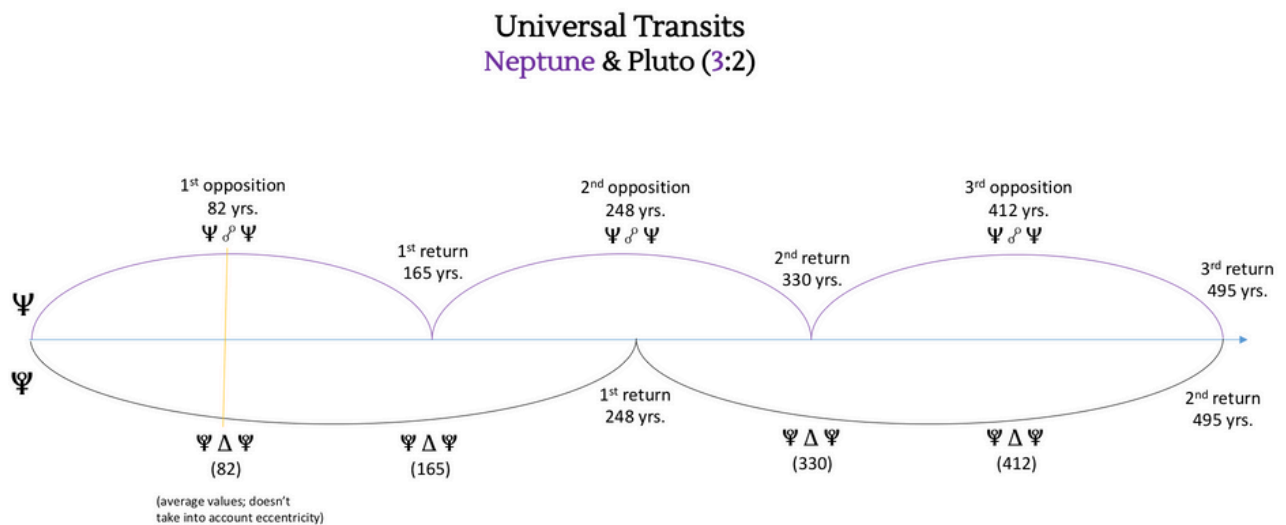


# PART THREE

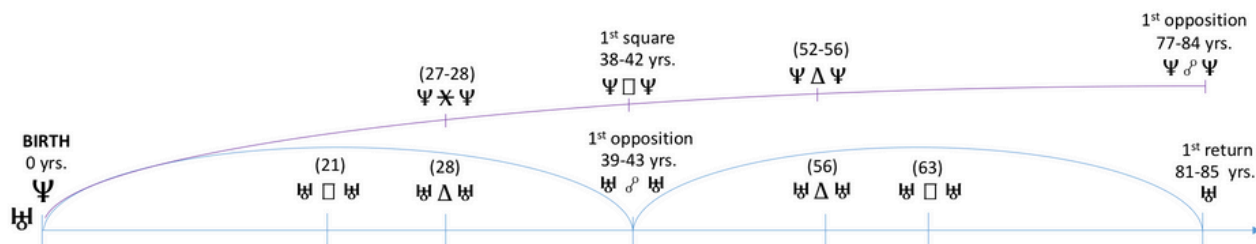
ADVANCED STUDY

# Universal Transit Graphs

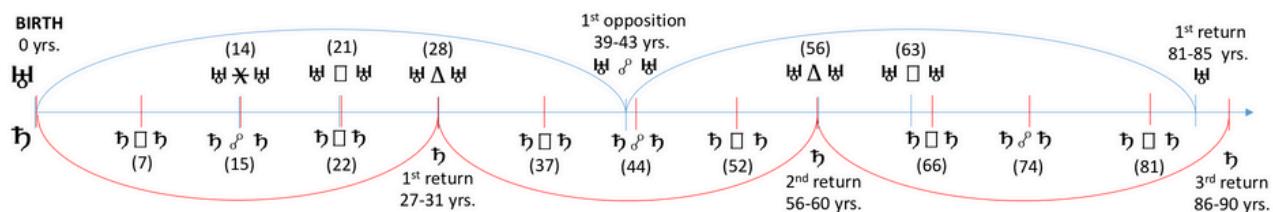
The graphs below depict universal transits and the way they fit together, along the lines of the Uranus-Saturn graph that concluded the previous section. The numbers in parentheses in each title indicate the ratio of the planets' orbital periods to one another. Below, the average age of each major aspect transit is indicated. The graphs are then layered to show the timing of the archetypal life-script that emerges.



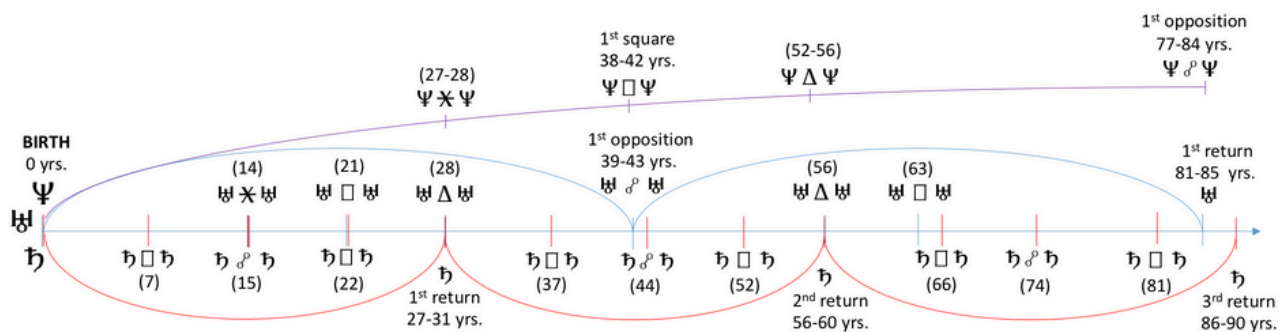
### Universal Transits Uranus & Neptune (2:1 or 1:½)



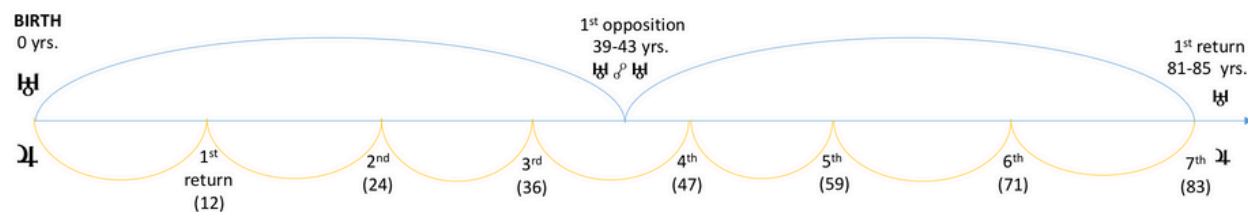
### Universal Transits Saturn & Uranus (3:1)



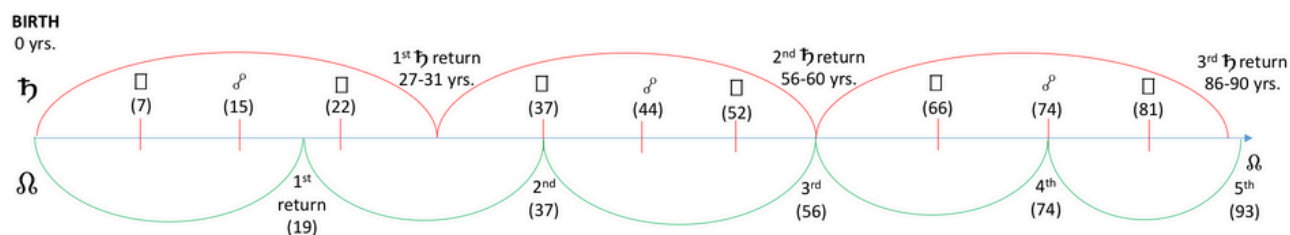
### Universal Transits Saturn, Uranus & Neptune (3:1:½)



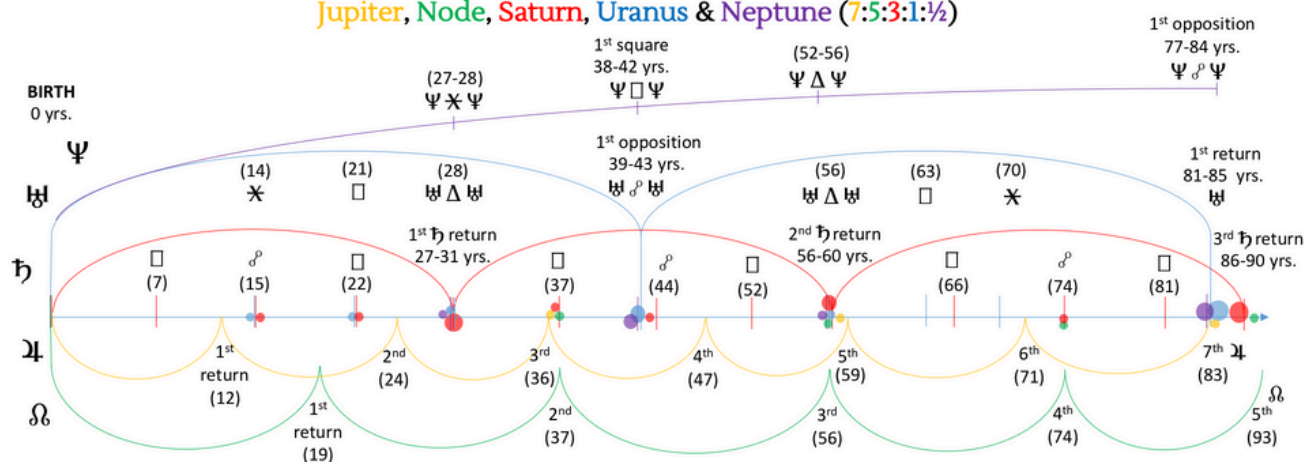
## Universal Transits Jupiter & Uranus (7:1)



## Universal Transits Node & Saturn (5:3)



## Universal Transits: Jupiter, Node, Saturn, Uranus & Neptune (7:5:3:1:½)



# Synodic Periods:

## Average Interval between Similar Conjunctions

Astrology uses both sidereal and synodic periods. A sidereal period is the time that it takes a planet to return to the same degree of the zodiac, for example the time it takes the Moon to cycle from 0° Aries back to 0° Aries, which is about 27.3 days. A synodic period is the time that it takes a planet to move from a conjunction with another planet back to that same conjunction, for example the time it takes the Moon to cycle from New Moon to New Moon (conjunction with the Sun), which is 29.5 days. This longer period emerges because the Sun continues to move during the Moon's sidereal cycle, and the Moon must then "catch up" during those extra couple days. The same logic can be applied to any two planets to study their synodic cycle relationship.

In the table below, the numbers in bold indicate each planet's orbital period. The rest of the table indicates the length of synodic periods, that is, the average number of years between planetary conjunctions. For example, about 45 years elapse between one Saturn-Uranus conjunction and the next Saturn-Uranus conjunction.

The term "similar conjunction" indicates that multiple conjunctions within a retrograde cycle are discounted. Take care with the values given for Mercury and Venus in this table, since their orbital periods do not equal their tropical periods (the time it takes them to go around the chart). For more information visit:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Conjunction\\_\(astronomy\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Conjunction_(astronomy))

Planet	Mercury	Venus	Sun	Mars	Jupiter	Saturn	Uranus	Neptune	Pluto
<b>Orbital Period</b>	<b>0.241</b>	<b>0.615</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1.881</b>	<b>11.862</b>	<b>29.457</b>	<b>84.012</b>	<b>164.782</b>	<b>248.825</b>
Mercury	<b>0.241</b>	1.599	0.317	2.135	1.092	1.035	1.012	1.006	1.004
Venus	<b>0.615</b>	1.599	1.599	2.135	1.092	1.035	1.012	1.006	1.004
Sun	<b>1</b>	0.317	1.599	2.135	1.092	1.035	1.012	1.006	1.004
Mars	<b>1.881</b>	2.135	2.135	2.135	2.235	2.009	1.924	1.903	1.895
Jupiter	<b>11.862</b>	1.092	1.092	1.092	2.235	19.859	13.812	12.782	12.45
Saturn	<b>29.457</b>	1.035	1.035	1.035	2.009	19.859	45.361	35.868	33.442
Uranus	<b>84.012</b>	1.012	1.012	1.012	1.924	13.812	45.361	171.396	127.27
Neptune	<b>164.782</b>	1.006	1.006	1.006	1.903	12.782	35.868	171.396	494.346
Pluto	<b>248.825</b>	1.004	1.004	1.004	1.895	12.46	33.442	127.27	494.346

# Synodic Periods:



## Time between World Transit Conjunctions

We can extract and simplify some of the values in the table above to focus on the time between world transit conjunctions. The table below shows how long it takes after a world transit conjunction for the faster to planet to go all the way around the zodiac and catch up with the slower planet to again form a conjunction.

COMBINATION	AVERAGE INTERVAL BETWEEN SIMILAR CONJUNCTIONS
 	492 years
 	171 years
 	~127 years
 	45 years
 	36 years
 	33.5 years
 	20 years
 	14 years
 	13 years
 	12.5 years
	~2 years with all planets
   	~1 year with all outer planets
 	29.5 days
	28 days with all outer planets















# Generational Transit Return Cycles

Another way to think about world transit conjunctions is as natal aspects for the generation born at that time. Then the synodic period (previous two pages) indicates the timing of generational return cycles, i.e., when the natal aspect of the generation will again occur in the sky, creating an archetypal resonance between natal aspect and world transit. Find your generational aspect(s) and follow the “universal” transits experienced by your generation, somewhat analogous to a Saturn or Uranus return (or quadrature cycle). For example, those born with Saturn-Uranus conjunct in 1987-89 will experience archetypal resonance with the Saturn-Uranus conjunction of 2032-33. Remember, these are average durations between multiyear transits.

COMBINATION	INTERVAL
 	171 years (quadratures at ~43 years)
 	127 years (quadratures at ~32 years)
 	45 years (quadratures at ~11 years)
 	36 years (quadratures at ~9 years)
 	33.5 years (quadratures at ~8 years)
 	20 years
 	14 years
 	13 years
 	12.5 years

# Angular Relationship between Similar Conjunctions

We can take the inquiry on the previous pages a step further by calculating the angular relationship or degrees of change between successive world transit conjunctions, as shown below. I find it remarkable that among these outer planet cycles, the angular relationships between similar conjunctions include all the major aspects (see explanation below).

COMBINATION	INTERVAL	DEGREE CHANGE BETWEEN CONJUNCTIONS
 	492 years	$715^{\circ} = 24 \text{ signs} - 5^{\circ} = \sim\text{conjunction}$
 	171 years	$14.5^{\circ} = \text{half sign}$
 	45 years	$193^{\circ} = 6 \text{ signs} + 13^{\circ} = \sim\text{opposition}$
 	36 years	$78.5^{\circ} = 3 \text{ signs} - 11.5^{\circ} = \sim\text{square}$
 	20 years	$244.5^{\circ} = 8 \text{ signs} + 4.5^{\circ} = \sim\text{trine}$
 	14 years	$60^{\circ} = 2 \text{ signs} = \text{sextile}$
 	13 years	$28^{\circ} = 1 \text{ sign} - 2^{\circ} (\text{semi-sextile})$

For example, if a Jupiter-Uranus conjunction occurs at 5° Aries, the next Jupiter-Uranus conjunction 14 years later will occur at 5° Gemini, exactly a sextile away. Also worth noting:

- The conjunction, the most fundamental aspect, is associated with Neptune-Pluto, the longest and outermost of the cycles.
- The opposition and the square, the “hard” aspects, are each associated with a combination involving Saturn (SA-UR and SA-NE).
- The trine and the sextile, the “soft” aspects, are each associated with a combination involving Jupiter (JU-SA and JU-UR). In each case, the planet interacts with its superior neighbor and the planet just beyond that neighbor.
- Even the two combinations that do not form a major aspect (UR-NE and JU-NE) are still multiples of a whole sign (1/2 and 1 respectively).

The Neptune-Pluto opposition halfway through the Neptune-Pluto cycle happens at approximately the same degree as the initial conjunction. The subsequent conjunction also happens at approximately the same degree as the initial conjunction. This is because Neptune and Pluto are in orbital resonance:

- 2 cycles of Pluto equals 3 cycles of Neptune
- $(2 \times 248 = 496) \approx (3 \times 165 = 495)$
- In the time that Pluto has completed 1 cycle and returned to its initial position, Neptune will have completed 1.5 cycles bringing it into opposition with Pluto.

I'd like to close with a couple final thoughts about how to conceptualize this material.

When we apply the sequence of aspects to a natal chart by setting that natal chart in motion as transits, we derive universal transits. The universal transits are the implicit relations of natal placements to themselves when subjected to time and cyclical periodicity.

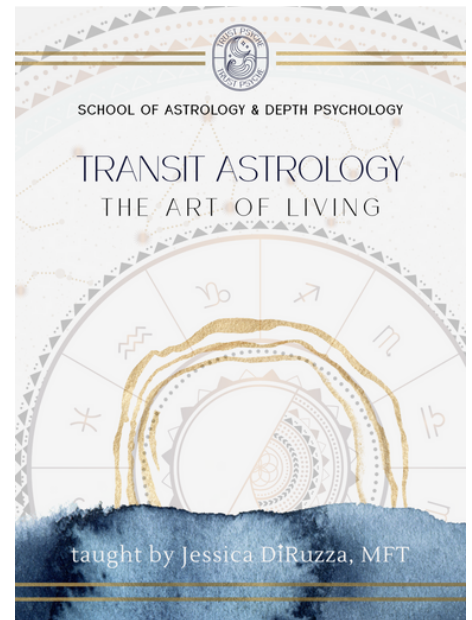
Similarly, when we apply the sequence of aspects to a world transit chart by setting it in motion and comparing the subsequent world transits to the original chart, we derive the time (synodic period) and angular relationship between world transit conjunctions. These durations and aspects are the implicit relations of world transit placements to themselves when subjected to time and cyclical periodicity. We could call these world-universal patterns.

## Further Resources

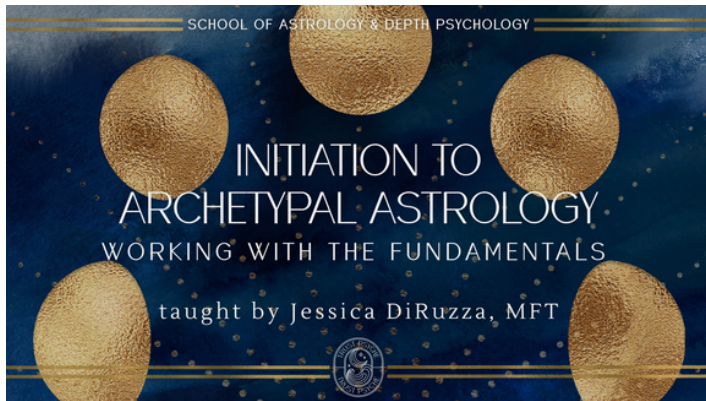
Thank you for living astrology with us! Here are some further Trust Psyche resources to support you on your unfolding journey:

- [Take the class that this guide was created for!](#)
- [TrustPsyche.com](#) - for all our offerings
- [Check out our other handbooks](#)
- [Study our entire online astrology curriculum](#)
- [Get an astrology reading](#)
- [Receive psychotherapy or professional consultation](#)
- [Watch us on YouTube](#) (Subscribe, Like, Follow!)
- [Follow us on Instagram](#)
- [Listen to the Trust Psyche Podcast](#)
- [Read our Blog](#) (subscribe straight to your inbox)

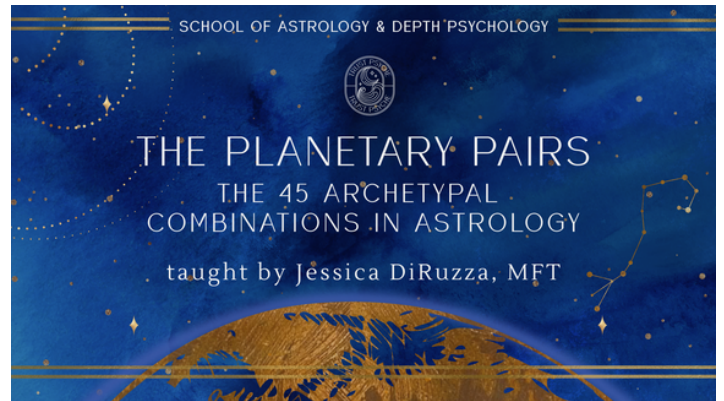
Reach out to us any time: [Travis@TrustPsyche.com](mailto:Travis@TrustPsyche.com)



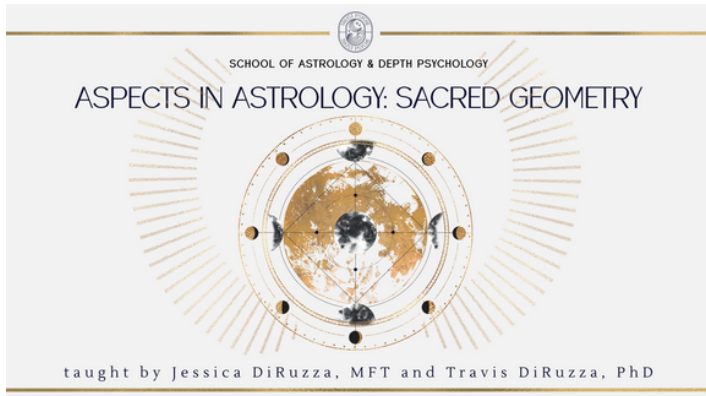
# The Trust Psyche Curriculum



The entry point to archetypal astrology, where you learn the technical side of how to read birth charts and transits—including the aspects, planets, signs, and houses—combined with a broader understanding of the worldview of archetypal cosmology.



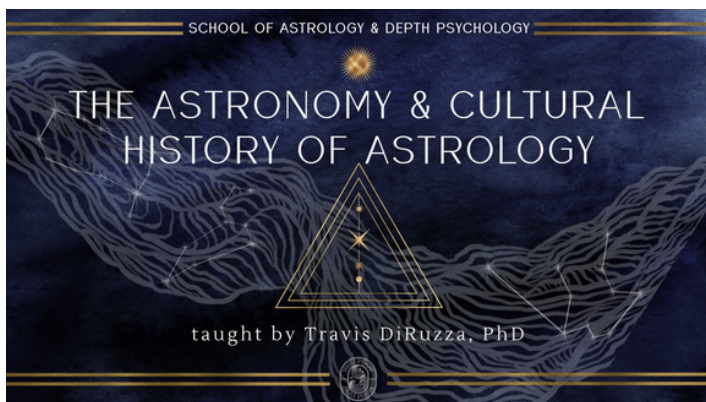
The meaning of the planets in aspect—the 45 archetypal combinations, from Sun & Moon out to Neptune & Pluto—interpreted from psychological, relational, familial, personal, conceptual, physical, emotional, and spiritual perspectives.



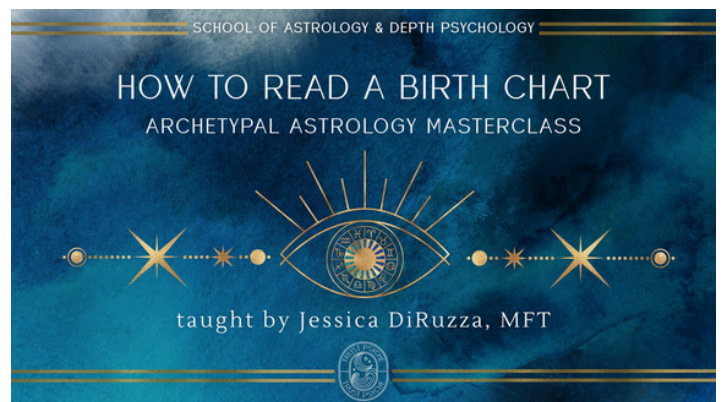
Breathing new life into a traditional topic—psychological, historical, mathematical, geometric, musical, harmonic, and archetypal approaches to each aspect.



Mapping and understanding the past, fully participating with the present, and preparing for our futures—by tracking and tending to the relationship between the world transits of the anima mundi and our own natal charts.

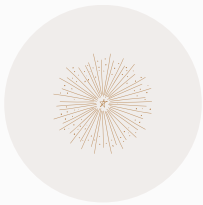


Astrology has constantly evolved alongside our understanding of astronomy and our cultural beliefs about our place in the cosmos. The story of astrology is very much the story of humanity awakening to its place in the cosmos.



Reading a birth chart is reading both a sacred text and a person's soul. Within the counseling space of astrology, it is essential that we know how to read both—the chart and the person before us.

## Further Resources



### Free Natal Chart

To begin your astrological practice, the best place to start is with your natal chart. You will need your birth date, time, and place. You may print a free chart at [astro.com](https://astro.com) or [astro-seek.com](https://astro-seek.com). Follow the links.

[Get It Now](#)



### Developing an archetypal eye

Begin with Richard Tarnas' [An Introduction to Archetypal Astrology](#). This was written as a preparatory introduction to archetypal astrology for those interested in having an astrological consultation.

[Get It Now](#)

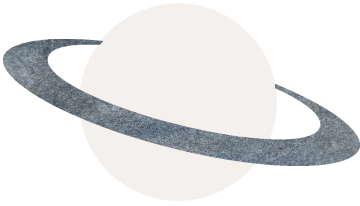


### More video lectures & discussions

[Trust Psyche YouTube channel](#) has years' worth of lectures, podcast episodes, and interviews about astrology. Jessica has done many talks about questions that have come up for her students in class. There you will also find other inspiring people to read and listen to.

[Get It Now](#)

# Astrology Software Recommendations



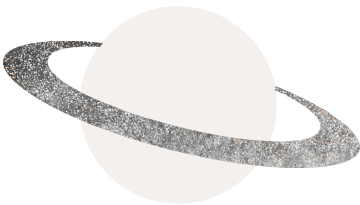
## [Astro Gold](#)

The software that Jessica currently uses. It offers all the major features one needs for natal charts and transits, including bi-, tri-, and quad-wheels, as well as advanced calculations such as secondary progressions, composite charts, and solar returns. Available for Mac, iOS, and PC.



## [Solar Fire](#)

The most sophisticated astrology software out there. It does everything under the sun, including astrocartography. Available only for PC.



## [Time Passages](#)

## [IO](#)

## [Luna](#)

A subscription based cloud software available for \$5/month or \$36/year. Cancel anytime.

## [Astro.com](#) & [Astro-seek.com](#)

Free online options that will perform many calculations but are often more time consuming and cumbersome than the softwares above.

You can use an ephemeris to track planets if you already use this method and enjoy it. If you need assistance in programming your astrology software, go to the website of the software where they typically have tutorials and online support. You can also watch YouTube videos where other astrologers show you how to use your software - type in the software you use and what you want to learn to program. Travis offers a short AstroGold tutorial on your course page.

# Glossary of Terms

## **Archetype:**

this is a highly complex phenomenon. As concisely as possible, it may be thought of as a universal primordial essence that informs, impels, and permeates all levels of existence. A longer definition: Archetype derives from the Greek adjective archetypos, which has two root words, arkhe (pl. archai) meaning "first" or "original" and typos, meaning "model" or "type". According to Archai, the Journal of Archetypal Cosmology, "Archai means original forms or fundamental principles in Greek and refers, as in the mythic and Platonic vision of ancient Greece, to the underlying primordial essences and forces that animate the cosmos". These primordial essences or energies are the origins of existence, the manifestation of form, they constitute the human psyche and the cosmos as a whole. Archetypes infinitely transcend and permeate both the macrocosm and microcosm of the universe. Thus, all things and all processes in the universe are a representation of an archetype or an archetypal combination. There are myriad ways in which to view and understand archetypes, but in light of simplicity, three distinct ways are as mythic gods and goddesses as in the Homeric perspective, as Ideas or Forms in the Platonic tradition, or as psychological constituents as in the Jungian understanding.

## **Aspect:**

angular geometrical relationship between two or more planets.

## **Ascendant (ASC):**

one of the four-quadrature angles of the chart. Also known as the rising sign, it is the sunrise or ascending position on the eastern horizon, where the zodiacal sign and degree are at the specific time and location of one's birth. If there is a planet(s) conjunct the ascendant, that planetary archetype(s) tends to be quite prominent in one's life. The ascendant is associated with how one engages the world from moment to moment. It reflects the way one initially presents him or herself to the world.

**Celestial body or Planet:**

includes the Sun, Moon and eight planets of the solar system (in the astrological tradition, Pluto is still considered a planet).

**Cosmology:**

an account or theory of the origins of the universe. It is an extension of one's worldview – the underlying beliefs and principles one holds both consciously and unconsciously about the nature of existence and reality, the human being's place in the world; why we are, where we came from, and where we are going.

**Descendant (DSC):**

one of the four-quadrature angles of the chart. It is the sunset position or the descending position on the western horizon, where the zodiacal sign and degree are at the specific time and place of one's birth. If there is a planet(s) conjunct the descendant that planetary archetype(s) tends to be prominent in one's life. It is the area of the chart associated with how one draws energy or people into one's life and is also associated with relationships.

**Diachronic patterning:**

Archetypal themes correlating to a specific planetary alignment during one period of time will resurface at the next quadrature of that planetary alignment. These are similar archetypal themes expressing themselves in subsequent periods of history, reflecting a similar zeitgeist of the collective psyche.

**Element:**

each sign is associated with one of the four classical elements of fire, earth, air and water. Fire and air are considered to have positive polarity and are masculine or yang oriented, earth and water are considered to have negative polarity and are feminine or yin oriented.

**Forms of correspondence:**

the three forms of correspondence are natal charts, world transits, and personal transits. These three forms are how astrologers track the archetypal patterns in the human psyche and world psyche. There are further forms of correspondence, such as synastry and composite charts, progressions, and solar return charts.

**Grand-cross:**

consists of two different oppositions that are also square to one another forming a cross or large diamond/square.

**Grand-trine:**

consists of three trines forming one large triangle. Typically, there is one planet for each sign of the same element. Each planet is 120° from the other two planets in either direction, thus forming one large triangle.

**Hard or dynamic aspect:**

includes the conjunction, opposition and square. It is a challenging aspect that requires more work and participation from the individual to integrate the archetypal energies involved. They tend to have more dynamic tension that presses us into being, but once integrated offer true gifts and wisdom in our lives.

**Imum Coeli (I.C.):**

one of the four-quadrature angles of the chart. Imum Coeli is a Latin word meaning "bottom of the sky". It is the mid-night position or the lowest position of the chart. If a planet(s) is conjunct the Imum Coeli, that planetary archetype(s) tends to be prominent in one's life. It is the area of the chart associated with one's roots, ancestry, past, home-life, family and foundation.

**Mid-Heaven (M.C.):**

one of the four-quadrature angles of the chart, also called Medium Coeli, a Latin word meaning “middle of the sky”. It is the high-noon position in the chart, marked by the intersection of the ecliptic and the local meridian (which is not the same as the point directly overhead, the local zenith). If a planet(s) is conjunct the Mid-Heaven that planetary archetype(s) tends to be prominent in one’s life. It is the area of the chart associated with career, how the public views the person over the trajectory of one’s life, as well as one’s aspirations and goals.

**Modality:**

a quality associated with each sign. There are three modalities, which move counterclockwise through the Zodiac beginning with the Cardinal sign of Aries. The three modalities are Cardinal, Fixed, and Mutable. The Cardinal signs represent the beginning of each season, the fixed represent the middle of the season, and the mutable represent the ending of the season, as it transitions into the following season.

**Natal chart:**

also referred to as birth chart or horoscope. It illustrates the placement of the planets including Sun and Moon at the time and place of one’s birth.

**Orb:**

range of degrees of influence between planets where the field of archetypal energy of a certain aspect is operative.

**Soft aspect:**

includes trine and sextile. This is a harmonious aspect where the exchange of energy between archetypes has an easier flow. They are considered to be latent potentials and gifts we are innately born with, but that may go by the wayside if one does not activate them through participation.

**Stellium:**

a conjunction of three or more planets. This is a major configuration within the chart where the archetypes associated with each planet are fusing together.

**Synchronic patterning:**

events that carry similar archetypal themes occurring throughout space in the collective psyche during the same period of time, and which correlate to the particular planetary alignment happening during that particular world transit.

**T-square:**

consists of at least two planets in an opposition where a third planet is at the mid-point of these two planets, thereby squaring them both and forming a "T" shape.

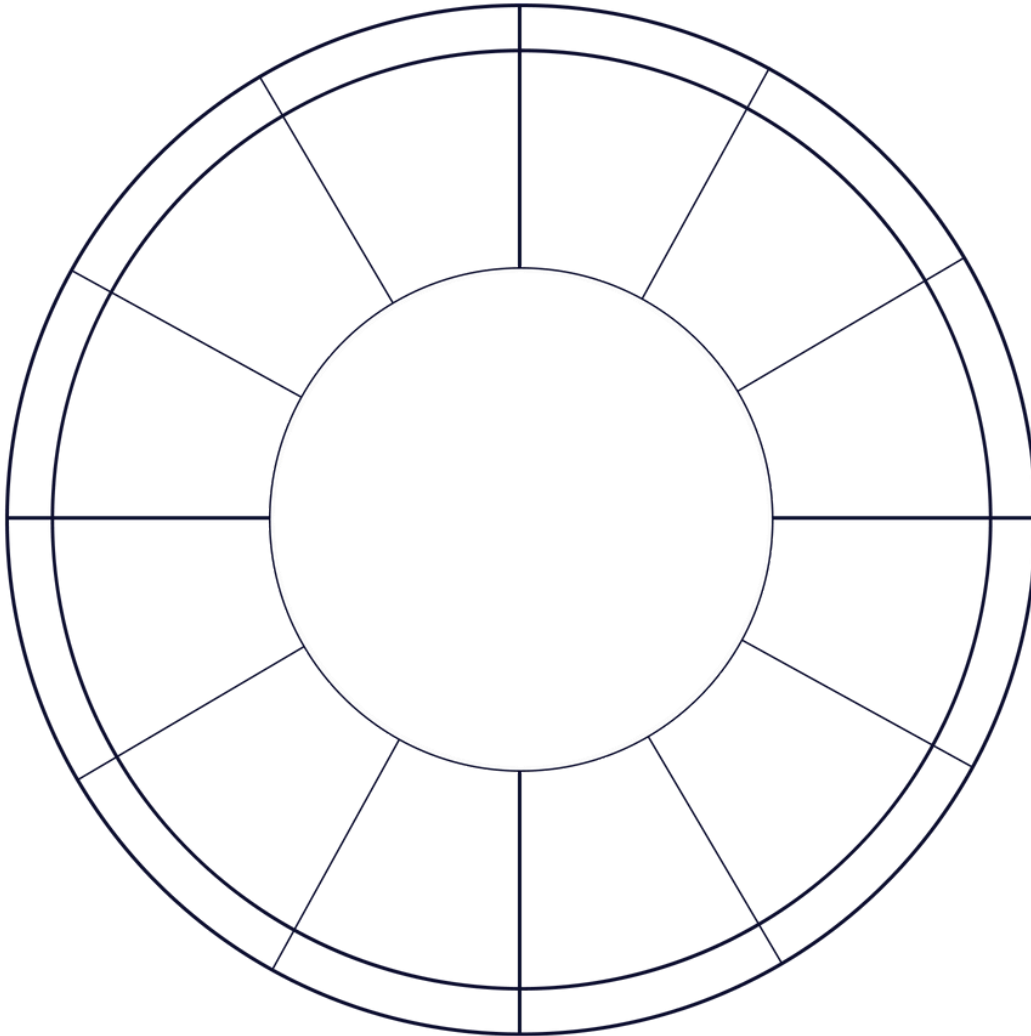
**Quadrature alignments:**

successive dynamic aspects which include the conjunction, waxing square, opposition, waning square, and then returning to the conjunction to begin the cycle again. Diachronic patterning is typically apparent at each of these successive quadrature alignments.

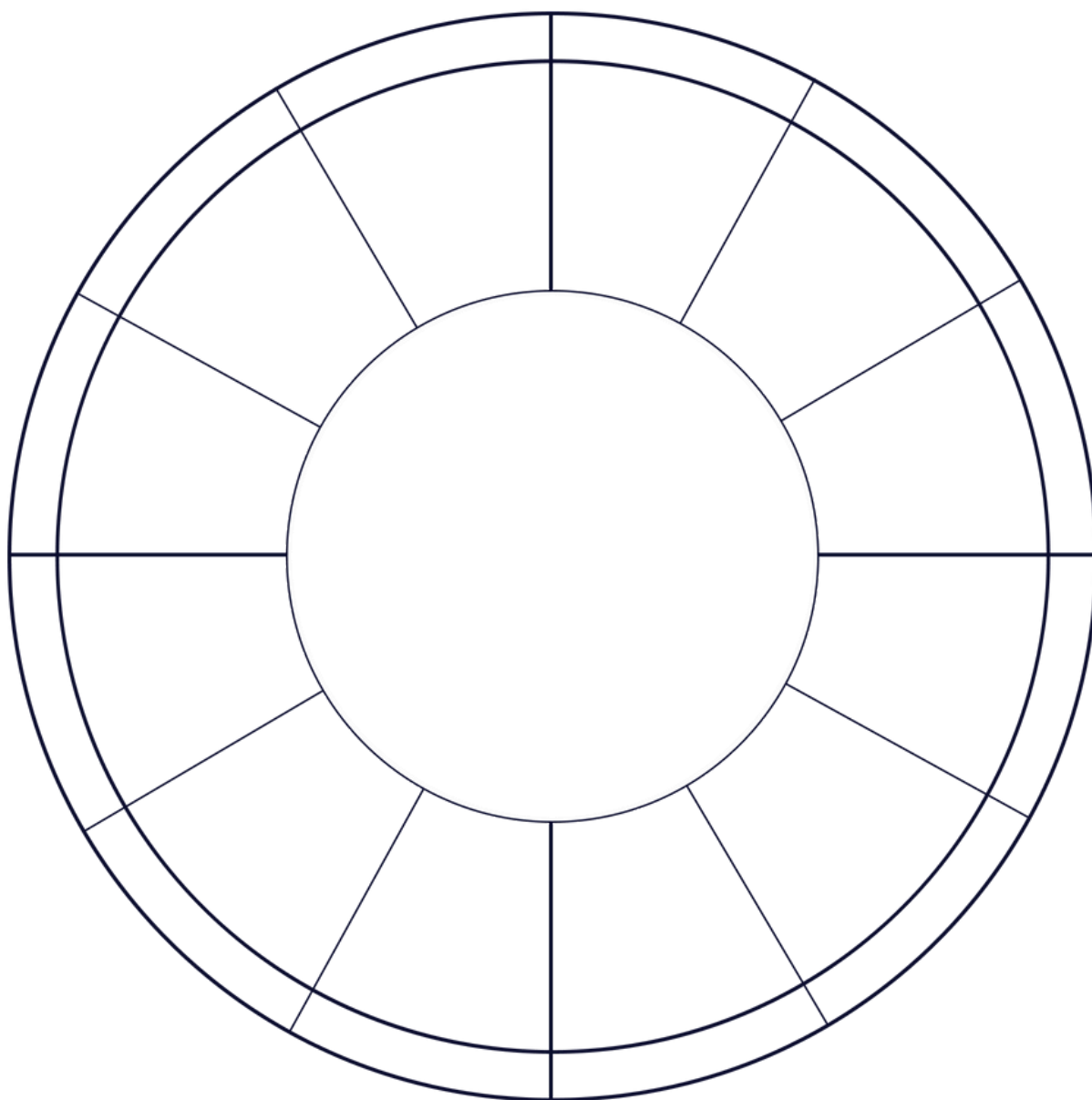
**Zodiac:**

Greek word literally meaning "belt of life". It is comprised of the 12 signs or constellations traditionally associated with western astrology, creating a 360° circle that lies along the ecliptic.

# Draw your birth chart



1. First draw the glyphs of the 10 planets
2. Write the degree of the planets
3. Include degrees for ASC, M.C., DSC, and I.C.
4. Draw the sign that the planets, ASC, M.C. DSC and I.C. are in
5. Draw aspects between the planets on the inside of the circle



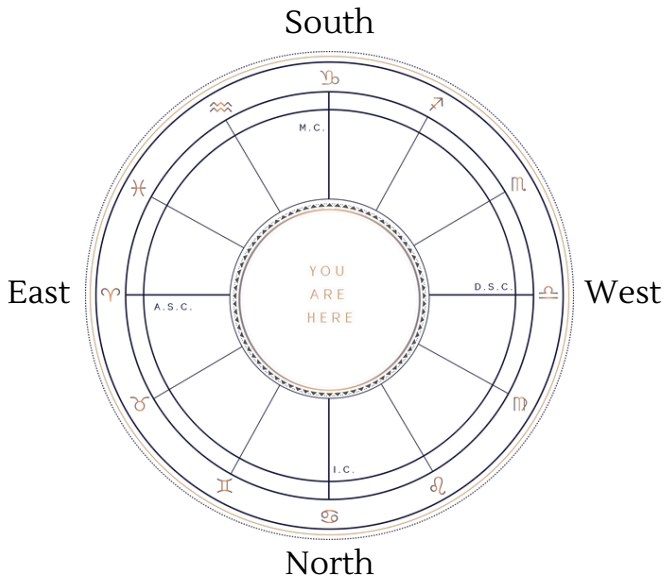
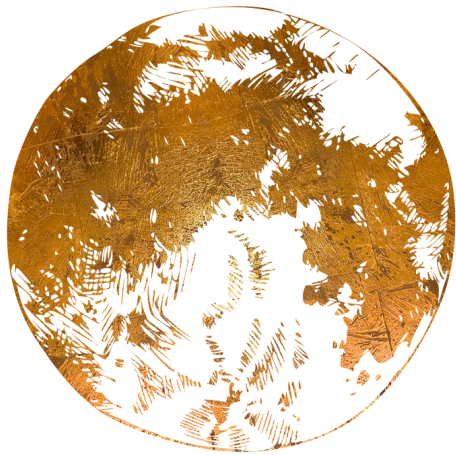
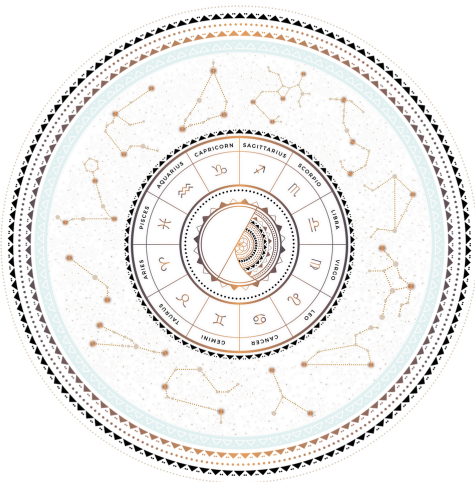
GLYPH	NAME
	M o o n
	S u n
	M e r c u r y
	V e n u s
	M a r s
	J u p i t e r
	S a t u r n
	U r a n u s
	N e p t u n e
	P l u t o











NAME	ORBIT AROUND SUN	LENGTH OF PERSONAL TRANSIT
Pluto	248 years	5-10 years (depends on where it is in orbit around Sun)
Neptune	165 years	4-6 years
Uranus	84 years	3-4 years (except Uranus aspecting itself)
Chiron	50 years	3-4 years
Saturn	29.5 years	1-2 years (except Saturn aspecting itself)
Nodes	18.6 years	6 months
Jupiter	12 years	1 month – 1 year (depends on retrograde motion)
Mars	2 years	2-3 weeks (except during retrograde: up to 6 months)
Venus	225 days	1 week (except during retrograde: up to 4 months)
Mercury	88 days	1 week (except during retrograde: up to 6 weeks)
Sun	--	A few days
Moon	--	Half day






GLYPH	NAME
♈	Aries
♉	Taurus
♊	Gemini
♋	Cancer
♌	Leo
♍	Virgo
♎	Libra
♏	Scorpio
♐	Sagittarius
♑	Capricorn
♒	Aquarius
♓	Pisces

ASC.	Ascendant
DSC.	Descendant
M.C.	Medium Coeli
I.C.	Imum Coeli








NATAL ASPECTS & ORBS OF INFLUENCE			
ASPECT	NAME	ANGLE	NATAL ORBS
	Conjunction	0°	10°-12° (up to 15°)
	Opposition	180°	10°-12° (up to 15°)
	Trine	120°	8°-10°
	Square	90°	8°-10°
	Sextile	60°	4°-6°
MINOR ASPECTS			
	Semisquare	45°	2°-3°
	Sesquiquadrate	135°	2°-3°
	Quincunx	150°	2°-3°

## ASPECTS & PERSONAL TRANSITS' ORBS OF INFLUENCE

ASPECT	NAME	ANGLE	PERSONAL TRANSIT ORBS
	Conjunction	0°	3°-5°
	Opposition	180°	3°-5°
	Trine	120°	3°
	Square	90°	3°-5°
	Sextile	60°	3°

## ASPECTS & WORLD TRANSITS' ORBS OF INFLUENCE

ASPECT	NAME	ANGLE	WORLD TRANSIT ORBS
	Conjunction	0°00'	15° (up to 20°)
	Opposition	180°00'	15° (up to 20°)
	Trine	120°00'	10°-12°
	Square	90°00'	10°-12°
	Sextile	60°00'	4°-6°



— SCHOOL OF ASTROLOGY & DEPTH PSYCHOLOGY —

Thank you!

