

## A FEW NOTES ON RETROGRADE PLANETS

When a planet goes retrograde the strongest pull of its influence is the day before, the day of and the day after. This is truest with the personal planets Mercury, Venus and Mars. These planets are going to direct our attention to something personal about our identity, self worth, values and friends. Mercury will often bring up themes of our perspective of our peers, siblings and what our place in society is about. It is a great time to think, meditate and explore psychological patterns.

The fact that machinery and technology or communications do tend to break down during a Mercury Retrograde time is in part because we are shifting our perspective. It could be a seed thought that has been planted in our consciousness for so long we don't realize we are anticipating a "break-down" in communications or machinery or technology. However, Mercury does rule commerce and the mundane or practical sides of the brain. So, our machines are often tightly intertwined with our practical lives.

**Mercury goes Retrograde September 7 (Labor Day here in US)** but the planning or approach time for shifts in perspective actually begin **August 18**. This might be a good day to circle on your calendar as well as **September 6, 7, and 8th**. Check out your perspectives and remain centered.

**Mars will go Retrograde Dec 20** and the strength of this cycle is felt **December 19, 20, 21 and 22**. Generally, there is a feeling of inhibition or resistance to move forward when Mars is stationary retrograde.

**The 5 outer planets - Saturn, Jupiter, Uranus, Neptune and Pluto** – go retrograde also but their influence is usually felt less personally at first. It is as if "we all are in the same boat" that is sinking or slowing down. This is because the outer planets are like a family consciousness – the collective unconscious that keeps reinforcing a theme.

Currently we have Jupiter, Pluto and Neptune in a retrograde. Uranus will be in retrograde starting in July. That's every one of the outer planets with the exception of Saturn. This could be a few months of feeling "de je vu". Or, we could be re-doing, synthesizing and re-defining our beliefs of what are the problems to put out effort. We might feel a little out of step with the times because of some back stepping. There could be a need to go over what we thought was decided and worked out and now change that decision.

These planetary influences are not just global influences. When one of these retrograde planets is influencing a personal planet such as transiting Pluto on your Moon, Sun, etc. you feel the influence on a personal and spiritual level.

The outer planets have a particular way of being in a retrograde that loops back and forth over the same degree – so Saturn for instance, will go over a part of your astrology when it is Direct and then it will go Retrograde and back up over the same degrees (this is the time we get the message of the cycle) and then it moves forward once again and is Direct one again (which is the time we can realize some achievement and clarity.).

So, if there is a square, opposition or conjunction with Saturn to a personal planet you can anticipate Saturn's lesson to be very important for up to 1 ½ years. By then you are suppose to get the point Saturn was making in the beginning of its cycle. So, do ask what is Saturn doing to my chart these days – it is an excellent question for inner study and clearing up a decision that needs to be made.