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Preface

This book is written for those who have a thorough knowledge of basic astrology and are faced with analyzing progressions, the tool astrologers use for predicting future trends in a life. Such is the current interest in astrology, that even if you feel you only have your “P” plates in the form of a diploma, family and friends will try to pressure you into “doing their charts,” which will involve predicting the future. Astrological analysis can be fairly superficial and quite simple, but can also provide an in-depth psychological understanding of a person.

In 1976, having completed my first astrological diploma with English astrologer Jeff Mayo, I came face to face with progressions. I was a brand-new cook and I wanted some cordon bleu lessons, but there were no detailed books on this topic at the time.

Jeff himself was one of the first to link astrology with psychology and, not long before my graduation, had published his book *Planets and Human Behaviour*. Astrologically predicting future trends in a life suddenly had a new dimension. Astrology itself was undergoing a revolution, turning from largely superficial, event-oriented analyses to much deeper psychological interpretations. It was capable of demonstrating in-depth character development along the road traveled by each of us following the astronomical moment in time that was our birth, bestowing on us the inherent character of that moment of time and the destiny that goes with it.

I realized with increasing excitement the depth of the process. I was even more amazed to learn that moving forward several years and reading the results in the ephemeris—the book of tables containing

planetary positions for any given year—correlated with the results for the same number of years going backward in the ephemeris before the individual's birth. Alan Leo, the “father of modern astrology” is credited with first using this fact in his work. The chart “said” the same things going backward and forward for the same year. Time had no meaning as we know it.

Then, overnight, we were all flung down to full fathom five by Liz Greene's book *Saturn: A New Look at an Old Devil*. This book was the trigger for the psychological revolution in astrology.

Although I was extremely excited by the increasing possibilities of astrology, I became aware of the great responsibilities involved in chart interpretation. Diplomas in astrology were relatively new, and I realized, when tackling progressions, that only minimal training was available. By doing the work, one would learn; there were no degree courses available in astrology. Astrologers work with people, and vulnerable people at that. The responsibility seemed great.

I decided to complete my first 200 charts free for friends and colleagues who were duly warned that I had my “P” plates. I also resolved to teach myself with a sensible test for progressions and, at the same time, examine the validity of astrological predictions. I collected thirty-eight birth times from acquaintances who were, or had been, married, and progressed their charts forward to their time of marriage. Here, I am referring to couples going through a marriage ceremony and proclaiming their commitment to each other.

I regressed their charts backward from the date of birth to the year of marriage, using two different methods of secondary progressions: the first where one day *before* birth equals one year of life, and the second where one day *after* the GMT date of birth equals one year of life. I also used astrologer Charles Carter's radix or solar arc method. Carter recommends it in his book *Some Principles of Horoscope Delineation* and says, “In my own case, I have never found them [progressions using this method] fail to work.” This method

involves adding the annual motion of the Sun, 59.8°, (from the time of birth to the time of the progressed date) to the motion of all the planets, the Ascendant, and the Midheaven (known as the MC). The older the client, the greater the difference between this method and the one-degree-for-one-year method. I find the solar arc method the most reliable, possibly because it involves all the planets and angles.

Using these three techniques, I progressed all thirty-eight charts to the time of marriage and studied them astrologically. I was stunned by the results. Many of them did indeed have the expected combination of Sun and Venus in their progressed charts, and not always in good aspect; but just as many had Mercury (mostly air signs), and Saturn/Venus, even in hard angles, and several other planets were connected by progressed aspects that one normally would not have expected to indicate marriage. What was going on?

I went back to my friends and asked them, very gently for a frank Sagittarius, if they could tell me their real feelings around the time of their marriages. Their answers correlated quite clearly with what the progressions were showing me. There are many different reasons why people marry—for love, for security, idealism, because of pregnancy, to leave home, for freedom, and because they don't get along with their parents. One colleague even married because a house she wanted to live in came onto the market. Astrology is apocalyptic, in the true meaning of the word.

This experiment clearly demonstrated to me that progressions “worked” extraordinarily well. I also learned how careful one must be. Clients don't necessarily want to understand what motivates them; very often astrologers are playing a priest-like role in the sense that they are just listening. I also discovered that people vary enormously in how they respond to progressions. Some people respond to a quiet violin, while others need to hear the timpani section of the orchestra before they react.

In this small book, I want to demonstrate the way in which advanced students of astrology need to examine the status of natal planets and then relate that knowledge to the solar arc and secondary progressions methods of predicting future trends.

I will also look at planets that change direction, natively unaspected planets, stationary and retrograde planets, and planets that change signs and houses when progressed. I also will explain how reading converse progressions is different from interpreting “forward” progressions.¹

I hope that as astrology’s ability to unravel an individual’s story becomes apparent, like me, you will agree with J. S. Haldane, who said, “The universe is not only more curious than we suppose, but more curious than we can suppose.”²

Notes

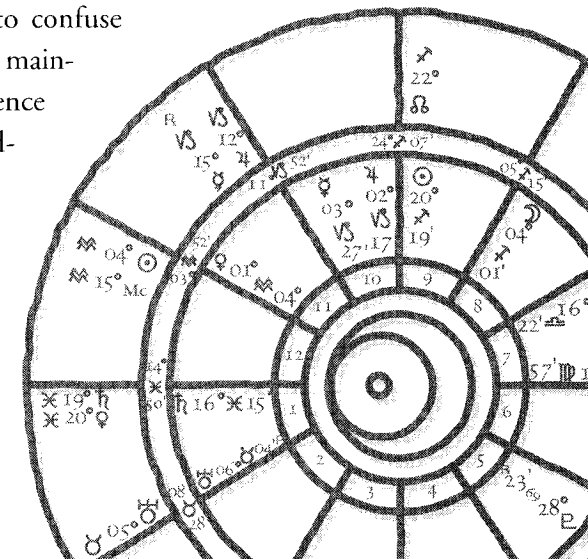
1. Throughout this book, for simplicity’s sake, I will include the Sun and Moon as planets. I will also say “he” and not “he/she.”
2. See J. S. Haldane, “Possible Worlds” from *Possible Worlds* (1927; reprint, London: Evergreen Books, 1927) 262–63.

In the Beginning . . .

How does astrology work? Astrology is more widely known and practiced now than ever before, and it is also just as controversial. As American astrologer Grant Lewi wrote in 1940 in his book *Astrology for the Millions*, “It [astrology] is ‘believed’ by a lot of people who know practically nothing about it; and it is ‘disbelieved’ by even more who know absolutely nothing about it.”¹

Lewi quotes Richard Garnett, a one-time curator of the British Museum who decided to study astrology to see if there was anything in it. “For his findings,” said Lewi, “I turned to Dr. Morris Jastrow’s article on astrology in the eleventh edition of *The Encyclopedia Britannica*.” Jastrow said, “Dr. Garnett insisted that it was a mistake to confuse astrology with fortunetelling and maintained that it was a ‘physical science just as much as geology’ depending like them on ascertained facts and grossly misrepresented by being connected with magic.”²

In the 1970s, a hundred scientists in the United States



issued a public statement condemning astrology out of hand. None of them admitted having studied it; it just sounded ridiculous to them to have “the stars decide your fate.” This statement, often made, sounds ridiculous to astrologers, too. Isaac Newton studied astrology in-depth and accepted it. When he arrived at Cambridge University, he was asked by an acquaintance what he intended to study and replied, “Mathematics—because I wish to test judicial astrology.” When Newton was much older, he was challenged by Halley, of Halley’s comet fame, because of his study of astrology. His reply was classic: “Evidently you have not looked into astrology; I have.”

Let’s shoot down the first myth about astrology. Star sign columns in the newspapers were first introduced by an American journalist in the 1930s. Although it is rationally impossible for every Sun-in-Aries person to lose their grandmother on the same day or for all Cancer Sun people to have a collective nervous breakdown, astrology columns have successfully helped sell newspapers and magazines ever since. An astrological birth chart set for the correct moment of birth is unique. People with Venus in Cancer will have a similar approach when expressing their feelings of love and affection; but whether they succeed in the same way will depend upon the geometric angles, which astrologers call *aspects*, made to other planets. These angles are unique to the individual’s birth time.

In order to prove astrology is valid, it would have to be subject to stringent scientific examination and accepted statistical methods that involve testing its validity over and over again under the same conditions. What was left standing after rigorous investigation could then be accepted as proven and valid. Astrology’s supreme disadvantage is that conditions never can be repeated. Every combination of angles and the Moon’s position in a chart is unique.

My particular view is that the answer may be found one day when we have the technology to study magnetic fields and solar activity in

much greater depth. The specifics of magnetism are far more complex than those of gravity. The Earth’s magnetic field is very weak when compared with gravity, but it could be supremely important. In astrology, each individual person represents his place of birth on Earth in geometric relation to our solar system at the particular time of birth. It may be dependent upon conception, but we have no known method of measuring that—yet!

My belief is that there is also a collective intellectual, egoistical pride at work here. I think Dr. Richard Garnett was right that scientifically or medically trained people would have their pride hurt if it was publicly known that they had studied, and found valid, something linked with magic or fortunetelling, and that it could be practiced by people who didn’t necessarily have to have a scientific degree.

Astrology does suffer through being practiced by people who have not thoroughly studied it, who hang out their shingle when they have a half-baked knowledge of it, or who want to make a quick buck or known as being “psychic” or “spiritual,” those two buzzwords of the New Age! Astrology is a subject one studies, and these days there are plenty of diplomas in many countries that offer worthwhile courses. It is also true that many modern astrologers began life as skeptics—I did!

Historically, we are in the company of Plato, Brahe, Kepler, Galileo (a practicing astrologer), Newton, and Jung, all of whom studied astrology. In his books *Astrology and Science* and *The Cosmic Clocks*, French statistician Michel Gauquelin (born in 1928) set out to disprove astrology.³ Instead, Gauquelin discovered an overwhelming statistical correlation in his data, which indicated planets rising just prior to the Ascendant or culminating just prior to the Midheaven were strong indicators of profession. “At the end of our second study,” writes Gauquelin on page 156 of *The Cosmic Clocks*, “the evidence reproduced itself with stubborn insistence: as in the first group, the birth dates of the famous physicians clustered after the rise or the culmination of Mars and Saturn. An undeniable statistical correlation

appeared between the rise and culmination of these planets at the child's birth and his future success as a doctor."

Gauquelin collected more than 25,000 birthdates. "Eventually, a more and more precise statistical relationship appeared between time of birth and professional career," he continued.

These results were later used to demonstrate that angular planets reflect dominant psychological traits of the person and therefore choice of profession. Astrologers had known and used this fact for years. Gauquelin also traced the lives of pairs of unrelated people born at the same minute in time in the same place in France. Their life events were parallel.

His studies were shown to have statistical procedural flaws, but they were still extraordinarily interesting to astrologers. The results were not statistically accepted, and he suffered much because of criticism. It would be interesting if this experiment with time twins could be carried out again, but it is quite difficult to do, requiring data from a timespan of decades. When we have college degrees in astrology, perhaps someone will make this the basis of his thesis.

One other vexing question is how astrologers could predict anything correctly without knowing the existence of Uranus, Neptune, and Pluto, which were discovered in the last three hundred years. Astrology, like other scientific and technical disciplines, has expanded as new knowledge has been acquired, empiric observation has improved, and ever more complex technological help has become available. This has been the case in the study of any scientific subject you care to mention.

For those reading about astrology for the first time, I would describe it as being based on the angular relationship between the Sun, the Moon, and the planets as seen from Earth (astrological measurements are geocentric). Astrology uses the three great circles—the horizon, the equator, and the ecliptic—as the main circles of reference for locating a planet's position relative to any place on Earth.

Where did astrology begin? We don't know. The first surviving records date astrology from around eight thousand years ago in the land between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers, which is now Iraq. We know this from cuneiform writing that was invented at the time, along with the lunar calendar, the first monetary system, the arch, and the brick. There was no stone or wood. Along with these inventions, the ingenious Sumerians devised the division of the circle into 360° and the sixty-minute hour. Astrology may go back even further. We know the Chinese, Mayan, and Indian civilizations independently used it for thousands of years.

About 8,000 years ago, the land between the two ancient Middle Eastern rivers was populated by the Sumerians, who called their land the Sumer. They later became known as the Chaldeans, a name taken from one of their tribes, the Kaldu. Later still, the Chaldeans became known as the Babylonians.

We know from the clay cuneiform tablets that they built great towers, or ziggurats, that were supposed to reach the sky, as part of their religion. The Tower of Babel (Babylon) of biblical fame was one such tower, reputedly around ninety meters high. Helped by the clear skies of the Middle East, their priests studied the heavens and noted the positions of the stars and the planets (up to Saturn) in relation to the Earth and wrote it all down. This heritage later passed to Egypt, India, Greece, the Arabs in Spain, and from them via the Romans to Europe.

Chaldean astrology was concerned with national rather than personal events—the annual flood of the two rivers, wars, the fate of their rulers, and so on. This tradition was carried on by the pharaohs of Egypt. Here again, it was the prediction of the annual flood of the Nile and the fate of their gods/rulers that was of supreme importance.

The Greeks were the first to link astrology with the psychological behavior of humans. They noticed that if a man was born when the Sun was conjunct Saturn, he was serious, saturnine, and critical. On

the other hand, if the Sun was conjunct Jupiter, they called him jovial and optimistic. Their mathematician Claudius Ptolemy published *The Tetrabiblos*, the first astrological textbook that we know of, around A.D. 150–180.

In the eighth century A.D., skilled Arabic mathematicians and astronomers invented the abacus and used it to calculate astronomical data for astrology. Chief Arabic astrologer Albumasur wrote a book called *Introductorium* that found its way in translation from the Arabs in Spain, via the Romans, to Europe in the early Middle Ages.

In the later Middle Ages (when Pluto transited Scorpio), the Renaissance brought Greek knowledge to the Italian city states. Syphilis is reputed to have arrived with the return of Christopher Columbus, and the bubonic plague (the Black Death) reached Sicily on its way to change European history. This was all very similar to our experience of HIV and AIDS when Pluto transited Scorpio in the 1980s and early 1990s.

In the early Middle Ages, astrology enjoyed respectability among the nobility and was taught at the great new institutions of the time. These included Dante's university at Bologna, which had a chair of astrology. Astrology was favored by the Catholic Popes. Later, in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, England, Denmark, Sweden, and Bohemia all had court astrologers, Dr. Dee being employed by Elizabeth I of England. In Rome, astrology degenerated into corrupt superstition.

For ordinary people in early medieval times, astrology was often combined with the practice of alchemy and was mixed up with religious superstition. "Magick" abounded. So much was changing that people were frightened and confused and clung to anything that helped them. Values of the known world were completely overturned. The feudal system was crumbling because, after the Black Death, when millions of people died across Europe, serfs and lords alike had to work the land. The common people demanded their

fundamental rights because, in modern parlance, it was an employee's market. With the advent of the Age of Rationalism and logical scientific thinking, humankind began to realize it had a fundamental will that it could exert to improve life conditions. People no longer believed they were totally powerless, that all that happened to them was due to God's will and fate. This enabled the state to challenge the might of the Catholic Church and even the pope, something unheard of before the Renaissance.

In 1543, Nicolaus Copernicus, a Polish churchman, published a revolutionary book, as he lay dying, that maintained that the planets and the Earth move around the Sun—the heliocentric theory of planetary movement.

Tycho Brahe, a Dane, born three years after the death of Copernicus, was an advocate of the geocentric theory (the Sun moves around the Earth). The telescope had not yet been invented, but Brahe's forte was regularly observing and recording the heavens with an incredible degree of accuracy, using his eyesight and such instruments as quadrants and astrolabes. His observations revealed that the tables, then in use to predict the positions of the planets, were inaccurate. His sighting in 1572 of a supernova explosion helped disprove the ancient idea that no changes could occur in the universe further out than the orbit of the Moon. Brahe's accurate data later enabled Johannes Kepler, a German astronomer and mathematician, to confirm the heliocentric theory of Copernicus. At the same time, Kepler gave us his laws of planetary motion. The first law states that a planet moves through space in an elliptical fashion.

Moving on to comparatively modern times, Englishman Alan Leo, writing in 1904, is credited with bringing about the modern revival of "serious" astrology. Astrology is a subject to "know about" rather than "believe in," he is reputed to have said.

Judgment was quite black and white in Victorian times, of course, and there was immense discussion about fate and free will; but even

then, the catch phrase from the Temple of Delphi, "Know thyself," was the creed of Edwardian astrologers. They published dire warnings in the early astrological books against sexual and emotional excesses, and the planet Mars got very bad press.

A great change in the way astrology was used occurred in the twentieth century. In the 1950s and 1960s, it was realized that astrology need not be confined to births, marriages, and deaths, but has far greater psychological implications in terms of how individuals view the world, the games they are inclined to play to gain what they want from life, and the creative potential available to them. Astrology can help align the conscious with the unconscious and encourage acceptance of all that we are and can be in life. This very acceptance removes a great deal of stress.

This has made astrology, when practiced ethically and well, potentially very useful to individuals during confusing and stressful times in their lives, and it can be of great benefit to parents with their children. The burden of responsibility for astrologers has also increased. We astrologers have in our hands an amazing tool to help people understand life; but to use it properly, we need to have not only a thorough understanding of astrology, but also training in counseling skills.

Notes

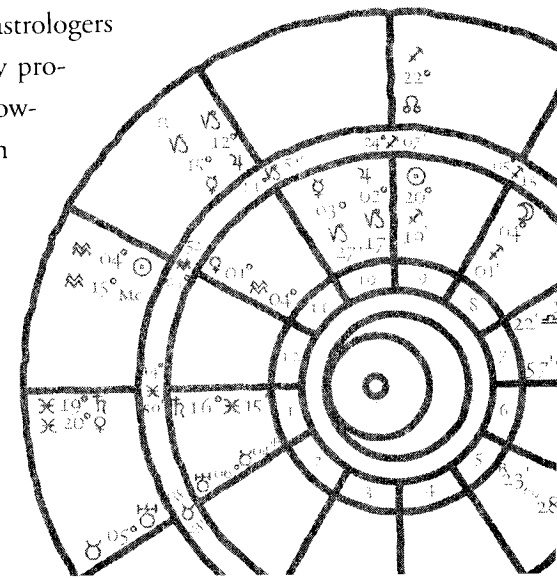
1. See the section "Why I Believe in Astrology" in Grant Lewi's *Astrology for the Millions*, 14th ed. (Saint Paul, Minn: Llewellyn, 1979) 1.
2. *Ibid.*, 3.
3. Gauquelin's research is also explained in chapter 5, "Neo-astrology: Forty Years of Research" by Michel Gauquelin, in the book *The Future of Astrology—Essays on Astrology*, edited by A. T. Mann (Unwin Hyman, Ltd., 1987).

Progressions

The following information is essentially for newly qualified astrologers who have studied the basic natal chart and how to interpret it and are moving on to learn how to progress the chart in order to interpret the mental, physical, emotional, and psychological development indicated by future situations.

There are three essential symbolic progression systems and an optional fourth system that most astrologers use as predictive tools to assess future trends in the life. The most commonly used system, that of secondary progressions, is based on one day after the Greenwich Mean Time (GMT) date of birth being equal to one year of life. Not surprisingly, this is known as the day-for-a-year method. Very few astrologers use the system known as primary progressions because that involves knowing the exact moment of birth. An error of four minutes can throw predictive timing off for as much as a year.

Your astrological computer program will translate the



actual local time and date of birth into GMT when it calculates your natal chart. Using the day-for-a-year method of progression, we then start counting forward, from the GMT date of birth. For those of you who don't have a computer, books that cover all astrological calculations are available.¹

The first twelve days after the GMT date of birth thus reflect events and developments during the first twelve years of life. If you were asked to examine conditions for the year relevant to a twelve-year-old boy starting high school, for example, you would count twelve days on from his GMT date of birth. This new date is called the *ephemeris date*. You would examine his chart for that twelfth day, which reflects his twelfth year of life. By examining the aspects made by the planets on that day to natal planets, you would be able to interpret the probable events in his life and how he feels about them. Only the faster moving planets will have moved forward enough from the birth position to make angles that differ from the natal aspects. Mercury moves very fast and is the planet connected with study and school; so Mercury, and any planet in, or ruling, the third house (because it is the relevant house) that has moved enough to make an exact or new angle, are the ones you will examine.

Another commonly used method (and my preferred method) is the solar arc direction method of prediction. *Arc* is the actual distance, by degree, between any two points. The solar arc is the distance between the Sun in its natal birth position to the day (equals year) ahead that you are examining. You then see what aspects the new positions make to the natal planets and interpret these new aspects for your progressed analysis. There are no signs or houses associated with arc movement because it is purely a mathematical distance. Twelve days after GMT birth, the solar arc would differ very little from the day-for-a-year method of progression, but later on in life it could differ by up to a degree—a year's difference.

Many famous astrologers used the solar arc method, including the meticulous British astrologer Charles Carter. When you have the two methods of progressing forward and counting backward, called *converse directions*, displayed, the interpretation of the progressed chart becomes much easier and the patterns in the life clearer. As we have computers to do this now, the technique of prediction is a very fine tool indeed.

Converse directions, the third method of predicting, is very interesting. For some extraordinary reason, which no one can explain, what is reflected in the progressed chart counting forward is often clearly expressed counting backward. Very often the same planets are involved. For instance, using the day-for-a-year method, progressed Venus is square natal Saturn in a particular chart. At the same time, using converse directions, counting backward, Saturn comes to square the natal Venus. You will find this time and time again. This informs the astrologer that the meaning of that combination is overwhelmingly important that year for the client. You can use the day-for-a-year and solar arc methods of progression, only you count backward from the GMT date of birth. Converse solar arc directions are not used as much by astrologers simply because there is a limit on the amount of work you can do for one consultation. These days, with computers, it is easier and I always use this method for any detailed work. I have observed that converse progressed charts should be interpreted in a more fundamental way, as I will explain later on. I think more research on converse interpretations is necessary.

Your computer program can recalculate the positions of all the planets for the new ephemeris date as if it were the new birthday; however, a system has been devised by which planetary positions may be taken directly from the ephemeris. When we read the planetary positions on the ephemeris date, we don't know to which day or month of that year those positions will apply. For our twelve-year-old

boy starting high school, when we look at the twelfth day after his GMT date of birth, we don't know exactly when (that is, which day of which month) the positions of the planets given in the ephemeris will be exact.

For those of you who don't have access to a computer, there is a method, based on the time of birth, by which we can work out when the ephemeris date positions will be correct. For instance, I was born at 3:23 A.M. in London, England. I know, by using something called an adjusted calculation date, that when I read the planetary positions from the ephemeris for any day ahead of my GMT birthday, those positions are always correct for October 2 in any year.² This is very important when figuring out which house the progressed Moon is moving through. Since astrological computer programs are now available for working out the exact time you require, you don't need to know any more unless you are planning to work out the calculations yourself. Once you have the natal and progressed charts, you are ready to lay down the framework for your natal and predictive analyses.

Your computer program will also compute the progressed Mid-heaven and Ascendant and the progressed house cusps. I don't use the progressed house cusps, but some astrologers do. I find I can nearly always obtain all I need without using them, but once in a while I can't find the conditions the client says are happening. Sometimes a client tells me the "Earth is moving" in his life, but I cannot find anything in progressions that indicate this. I always ask clients over the phone what is going on in their lives so that I can be of meaningful assistance to them when they arrive for their consultations. In some cases, I find the client is someone who reacts very strongly to midpoints, which you will have studied in basic astrology. Your computer program can compute natal midpoints between planets. If a planet crosses a very important midpoint, either by progression or transit, meaningful events always occur in the client's life either internally and psychologically and/or externally.

An example of this was a client here in Sydney who had Saturn progress over his Mars/Neptune natal midpoint. After living in Australia for eighteen years, he was diagnosed with tuberculosis. He had had been infected with it while visiting his grandmother in Hamburg, Germany, when he was ten years old. The infection did not surface sufficiently for diagnosis until he was forty-two.

Another tool in progressions is a strong transit to any planet involved in a progressed aspect, or either of the progressed aspecting planets transiting over their progressed positions or their natal midpoints. For instance, say you have a Mars-square-Uranus progressed angle occurring in a chart. If either Mars or Uranus by transit make an angle to each other's natal or progressed positions or the natal midpoint between them, the transit can be used to time the event that will occur in your client's life exactly. The psychological implications of such an event can only be gleaned from the natal chart. Remember, the natal chart shows how your clients view their world—it's their reality.

In the following sections, I will discuss some of the important interpretive points you will need to bear in mind when assessing future trends for your clients and formulating their progressed charts.

The Importance of the Natal Chart

The first golden rule of chart interpretation to remember is that nothing can occur in the progressed chart that is not indicated as a possibility in the natal chart. I have seen this demonstrated in the large number of migrants' charts I have delineated. Emigration from the country of their birth was clearly a possibility in their natal charts. Many of them have children whose charts indicate that they will move away from their parents, which I found interesting.

Using the rules that apply to symbolic progressions, astrology clearly demonstrates the ability of the chart to show psychological makeup and future trends in the development of the person's psyche

(the unconscious part of the mind) during the life. As well as predicting the “passages” most of us experience—puberty, marriage or relationship stage, middle and old age—astrology can demonstrate the individual response to events that happen to us. This is really the art of the astrologer. Viewing the natal chart and hearing the client’s life story, an astrologer can see how the client is going to react to, say, the natal Mercury progressing to conjunct Saturn. An astrologer can also see the ways in which the client may react negatively and can summarize the positive potential outcomes. No wonder astrology seems like “magick” to people who haven’t studied the subject. Many people who aren’t Sagittarians or astrologers believe, like Robert Louis Stevenson, that it is the journey and not the arrival that matters.

This brings me to what lies at the heart of progressions. I believe we are reading a map of the unconscious mind when we set up a progressed chart. Very few people align their conscious mind with their unconscious motivations and intentions during any given period of time. It is the discrepancy between these two that causes so much distress and pain. To be able to see this chasm is, I believe, the privilege astrologers are given when they construct a progressed chart. Where we fall down, and where we are human and fallible, is in our interpretation of the aspects in the chart; I don’t believe that it is astrology itself that lets us down. It thus behooves us to become as qualified as possible in astrology, in psychology, in counseling techniques, and most importantly of all, in experience.

When delineating progressions, you are trying to see reality through someone else’s eyes—their reality—without imposing your own beliefs and prejudices on your assessment. This is a very difficult thing to do. It is also one of the reasons why it is imperative to talk to your clients at length about the way they view their lives, and especially about what has happened to them in the year before they come to you.

One has to “get under the skin,” so to speak, of each and every client in order to really help them. How would they operate under the circumstances being predicted? I have noticed that every chart has a life theme, and all progressions and converse directions combine to develop this theme. It may indicate tests and difficulties in order to pull the person back on track according to his life’s intention. In real terms, it means that the person must align the conscious with the unconscious because he has become too much out of kilter. A simplistic example of this is that it is no good hoping for a degree in mathematics if one is simply not talented enough in the subject, even with hard work. It would be better to put time and energy into something else.

This is why Saturn is time and again the most relevant planet to us when examining what we can accomplish. It personally restricts us when we are not in touch with what is practically possible for us to do. It is why the Sun and Saturn are always juxtaposed as the primal influences on us when it comes to facing exactly what we are and what it is possible for us to achieve. This is why I find astrology such a joy. If Saturn is in hard angles natally, using astrology as a tool to read our unconscious can be a quick method of seeing exactly where we have been fooling ourselves and in what area we haven’t got our feet on the ground.

Examples of life themes involving Saturn that I have found in clients charts are learning to combine freedom and security needs when both are equally demanding, learning about commitment, developing one’s creative potential in whatever form that may take, and standing on one’s own feet and being thoroughly independent. Other Saturnian themes have included learning to depend on other people at certain times—learning that we are not islands unto ourselves. The cult of the individual may not be the path for many of us. Another Saturnian theme is rigid behavior or maladjustment to circumstances.

We are constantly called upon to adapt to rapid changes. Many people find this extremely stressful and try to escape their responsibilities by using drugs, alcohol, or whatever. I believe these themes are constantly re-expressed in progressions in a kind of upward spiral. One gets to one level of understanding, but the theme, as shown by the natal chart, is never solved and never disappears. It constantly presents a new level for us to understand and deal with over and over again in a life pattern.

Progressions also have to be seen in the context of the client's generation. They show the client's likely development in his attempt to adapt to particular conditions presented to people born in his own time. Certain planetary combinations occur for whole generations. My parents' generation experienced two world wars and a global depression. They had Uranus in Capricorn opposing Neptune in Cancer. My generation, in Western society, arguably has had the easiest of lives in many ways. We spanned the bland 1950s, saw the advent of the consumer society, the domestic appliance revolution, and the liberation and excesses of the 1960s. But then we, and the succeeding generation, had to learn to adapt to women's liberation and Uranus, Neptune, and Pluto transiting Libra. Some of us had the difficult natal combination of Neptune opposing Saturn and also Saturn conjunct Uranus signifying these decades. While the effects of these planets are generational, they still operate strongly in individual charts and are very forceful when aspecting personal planets and angles.

You can learn much about how progressions unfold by watching your own and your family's lives and charts and noticing how differently people react to the same transits. Our individual responses are as unique as our fingerprints. My children, now adults, had the conjunction of Uranus and Pluto (and one even had Mars conjunct, as well) in Virgo. Watching their generation utilize this combination while they were growing up has been a fascinating experience that has

taught me a great deal. Comparatively, we recently have experienced Neptune conjunct Uranus in Capricorn, a very different flavor.

Incidentally, using the time a child starts school is an excellent way of rectifying a chart when the birth time is unknown. That date is generally remembered by the mother, and the progressed Ascendant will indicate this by aspecting Mercury or the ruler of the Ascendant or third house.

As I mentioned before, it is a moot point whether transits represent outer events and progressions indicate inner psychological developments. This dilemma is the chicken-and-egg question of astrology. Both progressions and transits work together to produce an event, or several events, which call forth an inner shift in our attitudes and views of how we deal with the circumstances of our lives. I find that when a transiting planet makes a station over a natal or important progressed planet or midpoint three times because of retrograde motion, as sometimes occurs with outer planets, this person needs the contact three or more times. Fixed-chart folks especially need the three transits to break up existing conditions to allow the new attitudes to enter the consciousness.

I must admit that when I look at my own progressed chart and see that transiting Saturn only makes one transit over an important natal point, I breathe a sigh of satisfaction. I think perhaps that's all that is needed this time, and that I must have learned the lesson indicated by the transit. *We are in a time of great change and every new adjustment confronts our self-esteem.* I think this particularly applies when interpreting progressions; self-esteem, individually and collectively, being the crisis of our time. As always, the outer manifestation works with the inner adjustment. I stress again, when erecting a progressed chart, that if there is an aspect between two progressed planets, any aspect formed by these same planets by transit will trigger the progressed aspect into immediate operation.

Another reason for thoroughly understanding the natal chart, and knowing where your client is coming from, is that the natal condition of the planets has a crucial bearing on assessing how they are going to influence your client's reaction in the symbolic progressed chart. This is quite obvious if you realize you are looking at a map of a person's unconscious and his view of reality. If a planet is involved in a progressed aspect, it will bring into the analysis of that aspect the condition and aspect connections it has in the natal chart.

Say you are examining a combination of progressed Mercury conjunct natal Saturn. First you must understand the basic interpretation for the conjunction of these two planets, which I give later in this book. Then you look to see if they are linked in the natal chart in any way whatsoever, even by the most minor aspect. Then look where these planets are positioned in the natal chart—what houses do they occupy? These houses will be emphasized more than the houses these planets rule, which is the second area to examine. Examining the natal aspects to Mercury is particularly important because Mercury has no color of its own; it absorbs the essential meaning of the planetary links it makes natively. Say this Mercury had a natal square or opposition from Neptune. The progression of Mercury to the natal Saturn will be a great blessing. The person, for the first time, can come to understand mental diligence and concentration and may be able to get things done. He may also get depressed because Neptune inspires infinite possibilities and Saturn will provoke any underlying fears; but, by and large, it should be a very productive period when the negative effects can be offset by accomplishing a large volume of work requiring mental effort.

For a Mercury/Neptune natal combination, the person can learn, perhaps for the first time, what it feels like to be thoroughly "grounded." If Saturn was in a sextile to Uranus in the natal chart, the study involved in the progression could be science, computer technology, music, or architecture. It could even be sculpture or pottery if Sat-

urn or Mercury has natal connections to Venus. This is the process you must always go through when interpreting progressions and transits.

Here is another example of how the natal chart can influence the progressed chart. I had a lady client whose natal Sun conjuncts Venus and Jupiter, but all are opposed to Uranus, which is in a T-square with Pluto and Venus. In spite of the twin blessings of Jupiter and Venus, this Uranus really negatively affected how she initially tended to use her Sun, as indicated by the progressed chart. She was divorced and wanted to remarry when her progressed Venus came to sextile the natal Sun. She literally ran off with someone else's husband, who was in a very unhappy union. Her new marriage eventually was good and lasting, but it caused immense problems at the time when her would-be second husband tried to get a divorce. Understandably, the first wife he wanted to divorce created as much trouble as she could because of the "other woman" (my client), and because he had considerable worldly status she didn't want to lose. He also had teenage children.

Later on, this man became even more prominent in the academic world, but my client was not as well-known in her own right academically as she had been before her second marriage. His children took a long time to forgive her, and the fact that he had, in the eyes of the world, abandoned his first wife, affected his career in strange ways even though later on he did so well. It took him much longer to reach his goals, but reach them he did. If you didn't take into account this lady's natal chart, you would be hard put to see all the trouble around a progressed sextile from Venus to the Sun when these planets were conjunct natively and also conjunct Jupiter. Uranus was alive and kicking in this client's chart. I was able to explain to her that she needed much more freedom in relationships than most people. In fact, she and her second husband took sabbatical leave separately, and she regularly came back to Australia for holidays on her own (they lived and worked in England). A person with her natal aspects would do well married to an airline pilot.

Uranus won't kick so hard when this lady really understands how much freedom she needs in relationships. She was originally far too intent on "what other people might think" to allow the necessary freedom into her life. Acceptance is the main theme here: "This is the way I am and nothing will change the blueprint." But knowing that blueprint, one has the ability to modify behavior to some degree. You can choose how to use Uranian energy so that it won't disrupt your life. American astrologers Zipporah Dobbyns and Nancy Roof say in their book *The Astrologer's Casebook* that "the horoscope shows character and character becomes destiny."³ I would say also that destiny makes character. I can't separate the two. How many of us have seen fundamental changes in people after the Saturn return at age twenty-nine? There is no doubt that destiny changes us as we have to modify our hopes and ideals to fit "real world" expectations; but character determines how we react to our destiny, and I don't believe that is fated. So remember that nothing can happen in progressions that isn't indicated by the natal chart.

Progressions and transits then seem to indicate psychological growth and self-understanding triggered by unconscious drives becoming conscious through events that occur in our lives. Transits usually trigger activation of progressed aspects, which always change the person at a deep and fundamental level. An analogy, which I did not invent but is useful, is to think of a stage play. The setting, the backdrop, the scenery, and the script represent the progressions. The action and events on the front of the stage represent the transits. The development of the plot and the various acts of the play are the actions we have to go through in a year to obtain self-understanding at the end of the period. We are center-stage actors and everything revolves around us. At the end, we also hope to take a bow and receive applause.

Let's examine two examples of mine to see how progressions and transits work together on a deeper, more fundamental level. The first

client had progressed Sun conjunct Jupiter, involving her fifth and ninth houses; that is, the progressed Sun was in the fifth house conjunct Jupiter, which ruled the ninth house, which had Sagittarius on the cusp. The timing trigger was transiting Mars conjunct the Sun and Jupiter. Her progressed Moon was in the second house. She went to France and Italy on her first visit to Europe. It wasn't just a holiday, as she had thought it would be; it brought out her latent artistic tendencies. She was unexpectedly shaken to the core by the artistic history and the paintings she saw in Florence, Venice, Rome, and Paris. She returned to Australia and started studying for a degree in fine arts. It permanently changed her life in a joyous, expansive way, but it also made her determined to develop her talents, which changed her as a person. "The outlook from my room had a totally different view after the trip," she said. The progressed Moon was in her second house, indicating her changing values.

The second client had a Sun-square-Saturn progressed combination, with the progressed Moon in the sixth house. The transiting trigger was Uranus conjunct her natal Sagittarian Sun. She was a fiery person with many planets in the signs of Leo and Sagittarius natively. Her husband lost his job at forty-eight years of age. She had to become the family breadwinner and also had to bolster his self-esteem for almost four years. Such transits can be drawn out, because Saturn's effects can last slightly more than a degree past exactitude.

This progression also had profound psychological effects on her. Fire signs find dealing with the real world much more difficult than other folks do. This lady was forced to come to terms with one of today's facts of life—unemployment is common; but dealing with the hard real world brought out all her Sagittarian entrepreneurial skills. She developed her initiative and her organizational talents; in fact, in her own words, she "came into her own." Her distaste for the boring details of life, like paying the bills, living on a smaller income, and her fears of ordinary human existence, vanished. Her fears had become

reality, but she found she could deal with the situation. Also, she was too busy to think. "I just fell into bed every night, exhausted," she said. Her marriage improved because her husband appreciated her so much more. He became closer to their children because he took over her duties at home to a large degree. She regards it as the most important time of her life in terms of her own development. The old interpretations of Saturn combined with the Sun had a much deeper and more complex meaning than the simple delineation of restraint. Yes, she experienced restriction, frustration, and all of those Saturnian things, but the whole family gained so much more. Her children learned real values. "They could no longer have just what they wanted. We found we had really indulged them," she said. "They expected everything to be handed to them on a plate."

Uranus transiting conjunct the Sun is very strong, but it released her talents, albeit accompanied by the heavy Saturn influence. Uranus is generally felt to be more destructive by people trying to hang on rigidly to the status quo in their lives.

Planetary Compatibilities

Some planetary combinations are much more compatible than others. A square between Jupiter and Venus, for example, is not as hard to handle as, say, an incompatible combination such as Venus and Saturn. The outer three planets, Uranus, Neptune, and Pluto, depend very much on their natal aspects as to whether they will be easy or testing. Compatibilities must always be borne in mind. Here is a useful list.

Easy or difficult	Easy	Difficult
Sun/Moon	Sun/Mercury	Sun/Saturn
Sun/Mars	Sun/Venus	Moon/Saturn
Sun/Jupiter	Venus/Jupiter	Moon/Uranus
Sun/Jupiter	Moon/Jupiter	Mercury/Neptune
Sun/Uranus	Mercury/Jupiter	Venus/Saturn

Easy or difficult	Easy	Difficult
Sun/Neptune	Mercury/Jupiter	Saturn/Neptune
Sun/Pluto	Venus/Jupiter	Saturn/Pluto
Mercury/Venus	Moon/Pluto	
Moon/Mercury		
Moon/Neptune		
Mercury/Uranus		
Mercury/Mars		
Mercury/Saturn		
Mercury/Pluto		
Venus/Mars		
Venus/Uranus		
Venus/Neptune		
Venus/Pluto		
Mars/Jupiter		
Mars/Pluto		
Jupiter aspects from Saturn and the outer planets		
can be easy or difficult		
Saturn/Uranus		
Uranus/Neptune		
Uranus/Pluto		
Neptune/Pluto		

The squares, oppositions, and some conjunctions are more energetic and forceful than the trines and sextiles, but energy is required to get things done. Very often, the harder aspects, which certainly today are not regarded as being bad or evil, tend to encourage the person to put too much energy into something, thereby blocking off the natural flow or rhythm of life. When levels of testosterone are high in teenage boys, parents advise them to go play soccer or ride a bike, but the energy isn't out of place. Their energy is not regarded as

inherently evil, it just needs direction. So it is with hard aspects by progression or transit. Always remember that a slow-moving planet, such as Pluto, is much more potent than a fast-moving one, such as Mercury.

Minor Aspects

Minor aspects in the natal chart can be important, I believe, and when you calculate them you will be surprised at how many there are. I am talking about the nonagon (40°), which indicates testing problems that can be overcome; the septile (51°), which indicates potential for creative growth, but at a price; the quintile (72°) which indicates supreme talent or a difficult challenge if an outer planet is not involved; the biquintile (144°), which indicates reserves of power and writing and teaching talent; and the tridecile (108°), which indicates late development of mental growth. I don't use the decile (36°), the quindecile (24°), or the vigintile (18°). Many of these aspects in a natal chart indicate a greater integration of the character. If there is a progression involving, say, planets linked in the biquintile (144°), the person could become a teacher. These aspects have natal orbs of 2°, but, of course, will have exact aspects by progression. This is something to watch for if you are calculating progressions in great detail. I find that the semisquare (45°) and sesquiquadrate (135°) work as challenges and difficulties that do not allow people to use their own initiative to solve the problems that are generated. It feels as if one has to "sit it out" until the prevailing conditions change or go away. The progressed parallel aspect is also strong and reinforces aspects in the natal chart. You can count forward the relevant number of years if you use this aspect, but you need a particularly detailed ephemeris that lists parallels.

You will have studied the meaning of aspects before you approach progressions, but there are one or two points to note. The opposition seems to work very strongly in progressions, but watch what planets

are linked. A Sun/Pluto opposition may mean the ending of a relationship or a job so that a new one can be initiated. Progressed Uranus can bring someone or something that was previously prominent back into your life.

This brings me to the inconjunct (150°) and the semisextile (30°). They have the same core meaning, but the inconjunct is easier and more creative to work with. Very little literature, if any, is available on the progressed meaning of this aspect. I have found Alan Epstein, in his book *Psychodynamics of Inconjuncts* (natally), to be absolutely correct that "the inconjunct, or quincunx (its other name), usually manifests as an attitude toward oneself and the world which insidiously invites self-limitation."⁴ Most books you will read use the word *adjustment*, but *trade-off* would be a better word because that is exactly what you have to do to get the best out of the combination of planets linked in this fashion. Alan says it is an aspect that usually makes its owner "want to have his cake and eat it, too," which is again very well put. The trouble is it feels, and I use that word advisedly, as if the thing or person you have to give up is too highly valued. The return for giving it up is not enough, the payoff isn't high enough to compensate for what you have to give away, and this means frustration. Psychologically, in progressions, the combination usually means there is too much energy rigidly expended on hanging on to a relationship or a situation, or even maintaining one's egotistical stance. Too much desire is put into maintaining the status quo. The inconjunct is often in the progressed charts of clients forced to make fundamental changes in their lives.

In the progressed inconjunct aspect, circumstances conspire to make the person give up desire. In hindsight, it is obvious the person was trying to hang on to an immature behavior pattern, but the initial loss experienced in the progressed inconjunct can be quite hard to bear. The eventual readjustment, however, can feel like the phoenix rising from the ashes. As in all inappropriate psychological patterns, a

great deal of nervous energy is involved in rigidly maintaining control, and, when control is relinquished, an enormous amount of energy is released and is available for constructive use. This is why the inconjunct aspect is sometimes called the Scorpio or Pluto aspect. It often works subconsciously in that the person has a certain self-image that needs readjustment, and circumstances that occur at the time of a progressed inconjunct force the person to relinquish this view of himself. As one of my lady clients put it, "The real person that I thought I was didn't seem 'good enough' or 'glamorous enough.'" It is in the context of self-perception that the word *adjustment* is applicable.

In the semisextile combination, there is irritation. If, for example, Mercury and Venus are linked, you can find yourself dashing about doing Mercury-type things that demand attention, transporting your children to their activities, say, when you really want to be socializing. Again, there is frustration, but it is more easily alleviated by balancing out rather than trading off. The positive side of this aspect is that it can be used in diplomatic speech, teaching children, or creative writing.

Aspect Orbs

While I do not want to go into detail about the meaning of natal aspect patterns, I will mention the orbs I use so you can check if the planets are connected natively before progressing the chart. The following statement is not original, and I don't know who first said it, but I find it very useful. If the planets in the natal chart are connected by a trine, a sextile, or one of the favorable minor aspects, when they combine in progressions they will pass each other and have a good conversation. If they are in hard angles natively, they will either have a brawl or, in the case of Jupiter, Venus, or Neptune, maybe go off to the pub, gamble their money away, or arrogantly assume they are far more capable than they really are.

If the planets are unconnected natively, when they meet by progression they try to walk past without paying too much attention to each

other, but there are still results at the end, often very important and difficult to handle because the person is not used to handling that combination in the natal chart. This is especially so with progressed hard aspects between strong planets.

I use a maximum orb of 10° for natal aspects involving the Sun, Moon, conjunctions, and oppositions, and 8° for the Ascendant, Midheaven, or a planet that is overwhelmingly important in the chart. For the rest of the planets, I generally use orbs of 4° to 5° for sextiles, depending on the sensitivity of the client's reaction history, and 8° for trines and squares. I use 5° for the quincunx, which, I believe, is much stronger than formerly believed, and 2° for minor aspects. Planets not strictly connected by a natal aspect but in the same house and sign are like a weak conjunction and can be interpreted as such in progressed aspects. This is emphasized when a strong planet like Pluto goes through, say, Sagittarius in square to, say, three or four planets in Virgo in the same house, one after the other.

Planets can be important even if they are not in an accepted natal aspect. For instance, four planets separated by 15° (orb of 1°) from each other, I would consider to be in a strong creative relationship. An example of this is when a planet is at, say, 10° Taurus, with a second planet at 25° Taurus, a third planet at 10° Gemini, and a fourth planet at 25° Gemini. I would treat them as having the potential for a very creative component—possibly artistic or writing—that could be triggered in the progressed chart when one planet, say, comes to conjunct another, setting off the pattern. The same creative component is present when three planets are separated by 30° at, say, 15° Gemini, 15° Cancer, and 15° Leo.

Be aware that patterns, such as T-squares, grand crosses, and grand trines, can have a planet strictly out of orb, but, because it is in aspect to one planet in the configuration, it can literally be pulled into the pattern even with a wider orb. For instance, Pluto at 29° Cancer is

opposed to a 24° Moon in Capricorn, which is square a Sun at 18° Libra. Pluto and the Sun are part of the T-square pattern with the wider orb. This, of course, is important when the Sun progresses to an exact square of natal Pluto. The interpretation will be different from a Sun that isn't in a natal T-square pattern with Pluto.

What happens when a grand trine or T-square pattern becomes exact in the progressed chart? I have found, by watching my own chart, that a natal T-square coming to progressed exactitude—say, for example, Saturn at 14° Aries square to the Moon at 16° Capricorn and opposed to Uranus at 18° Libra—would have an effect for eight years when Saturn progressed slowly past the exact opposition of Uranus. The five years it approached and the three years after the exact aspect at 18° Aries would form the major influential years during which the person would be forced to understand thoroughly and come to terms with that natal T-square. The pressure would be felt very intensely.

As I mentioned previously, I personally don't believe a person can ever "solve" this pattern, but I do believe he can learn to accept and handle it with much more finesse. Life tends to repeat cycles in an upward spiral, and at each level you can gain a clearer picture and better understanding of how you use the energy and how the pattern is pressured into reacting. Acceptance, again, is the key to contentment, I feel.

Another point I have noticed, which occurs in a friend's chart, is that if a planet is unaspected, it will reach out to make a strong angle if it can do so, by using a wider orb. My friend has Saturn at 11° Aries and Jupiter at 21° Leo, not strictly within orb; but Saturn is the ruler of the Ascendant, and the older she gets the more these two operate as a trine. This is not a golden rule, but be aware that it can happen.

Transit Orbs

I use an orb of 4° for transits of Uranus, Neptune, and Pluto prior to exactitude and 1° past. Taking retrogradation into account, the whole 5° backward and forward color the period with the flavor of that planet and what it means in the life process of the person.

I have consistently found that 4° before exactitude there is a strong flavor, either through an inner feeling or an outer experience, or both—that predicates the strong changes that are going to occur. Having had all these planets transit most of my natal planets, including the conjunctions of the Sun, Mercury, Mars, and the Ascendant, while angling the Moon at the same time, I feel quite confident with this orb. I use an orb of one-and-a-half degrees past exactitude for Saturn transits. All the other planets are much stronger before exactitude and barely have influence at 1° past, in my opinion.

Timing

To recap, progressed aspects shown by planets listed on the ephemeris date (the required number of days ahead and/or converse from the GMT date of birth) are calculated to planets in the natal chart and the progressed Moon and its house and aspects are noted. The question now is at what time of the ephemeris date year are the progressed aspects likely to take effect? The progressed Sun makes an aspect for around two years depending on individual sensitivity and response. The faster moving planets, like Mercury, aspect for a shorter period. If the progressed Sun was coming up to a conjunction of the natal Mars at 4° Libra, the effects would be very strong at anything from 3° Libra onward. Then, during the conjunction at 4°, I would expect much activity and the client to feel very energetic physically and maybe mentally, as Libra is an airy sign. This would slowly fade until the Sun moved away from Mars at 5° Libra. Mars works early, like that other energetic planet, Uranus. Saturn will often trigger a major

event at the very last minute it separates from a progressed aspect, and I have seen three cases where it was almost one-and-a-half degrees from exactitude when the main event took place. Some people can really become rigid and hang on with Saturn! Psychological realization, that is, the shift of understanding from the head to the gut, can take place with any progressed aspect up to a degree and a half beyond exactitude.

Changing Signs

When the Sun, Sun ruler, progressed Ascendant, Ascendant ruler, or an important planet such as the ruler of a stellium changes sign in the day-for-a-year method, there is often a marked change in the person. For instance, the progressed Sun moving from Capricorn to Aquarius manifests as much more extroversion, a willingness to become more socially oriented, often less overt ambition, and, on a very basic level, a desire to talk a lot more. If it is the Sun, progressed Ascendant, or Ascendant ruler involved, the person's appearance may change considerably. I have known previously lank, straight-haired Capricornians suddenly get their hair permed or it has become naturally more curly as the Aquarian influence comes in.

As another example, if the progressed Ascendant or natal Ascendant ruler advances from, say, Pisces into Aries, the person can become astonishingly different. Empathetic ability may dry up, the person becomes active, much more outgoing, and aggressive. One client of mine, instead of being a doormouse and lying in bed in the morning, could hardly be prevented from running around the block at 6:00 A.M.

So watch for these changes, because clients can be quite bemused by the sudden emergence of characteristics quite alien to their previous natures.

The decanates and duads have a strong progressive influence. *The Zodiac within Each Sign* by Acker and Sakoian, published in 1975, is

still the most comprehensive book on this subject. Decanates have a different sign ruler within each 10° of the 30° sign; so the first 10° is the purest form of the sign, the second 10° is strongly influenced by the next sign in that element, and so on. The duads change every 2.5° within each sign. I have found that if an important natal planet changes decanate in the progressed chart, it will certainly have a strong influence. Say Venus is the ruler of the chart and goes into 11° Capricorn. Immediately the Taurus influence becomes noticeable in appearance—the face may round out and the hair may become silkier. The interests may change—the person may take to nest building or building a business. The domestic orientation may become more Taurean—the person can become a mother hen to her children. I haven't seen such obvious changes in the duads, except where the Sun, Sun ruler, and Ascendant ruler are concerned. I have watched my own family for this fairly closely.

Interpreting Transits with Progressions

If the transiting Sun, Mars, the ruler of the chart, or the ruler of the sign in which there is a stellium is making aspects to natal and sometimes, but rarely, progressed planets, this usually serves as a timing device for progressions. If any planets in a progression are aspected by either of the same planets by transit, the progression is immediately activated. The transit serves as a really good timing device. Say Saturn and Mars are in progressed aspect and transiting Mars makes a square aspect to natal Saturn. Immediately you have the time the progressed aspect between the two will be operative.

An outer planet transit, from Saturn to Pluto, can be operating, too. They all trigger events. The progressed Moon's aspects and its house occupancy are important, more so if a natal Cancer Sun, Moon, Ascendant, or Midheaven are in this sign and are involved.

Transits work hand in hand with progressions. Events in our lives, and our reactions to them, are the impetus for developing character.

They are the cause of the character development we undertake. They also affect our confidence and self-esteem. Losing your job can be a grade eight on the Richter scale of life crises; but if you handle it well, even if you search for other jobs and because you're, say, fifty-three years old, you can't get one, you can come out of the period with your self-esteem relatively intact and be able to get on with your life. It all depends on your attitude. Many aspects of your character and even your lifestyle will have changed. You will have learned to garner your resources, to better appreciate the people who supported you, to redirect some of your basic drives now that you are free from work, and perhaps to develop a hobby or do something you have never had time for. Or you may even emerge from such an event and become sick, full of resentment, wear black for the rest of your life like Britain's Queen Victoria after the death of Prince Albert, and demolish your personal relationships through your misery. I believe we have a choice in the way we react to events, but we have much less say in what happens to us in life. The choice lies in our attitude, and this choice changes character.

In many astrology books there are discussions on fate and free will, on whether progressions indicate inner psychological developments while transits cause events that instigate the inner changes. I can only advise you from my own experience with any degree of certainty. I have found that progressions and transits are so inextricably entwined that one can't differentiate what causes what. For me, personally, transits have always triggered an event. The only time I didn't recognize an event was when transiting Pluto conjoined my natal Mars but I have since heard from other astrologers that Pluto is sometimes very hard to recognize at the time, and I was young then and fairly new to astrology. There is also much written about evolution and self-development. Again, I can only state my opinion. My aim, though of course not always achieved, is to act from right principles. Many people are centered on a variety of cores. They may, for example, be rela-

tionship-oriented or self-oriented according to their major insecurity or area of concern. For instance, if a woman is fundamentally insecure without a man, she will always act to preserve the relationship, even if it is to her detriment, or even if he beats her. People act on the principle that relates to their area of prime concern. Self-interested people, for example, will only take action if they want to do so; they will not do something because it might be good for someone else. Pleasure-oriented people have that as their main concern, and so on. So my answer to all these questions is: It depends where you're coming from. Do you want to refine and develop your character? If you do, you will respond in a certain way to the progressions and transits. Certainly with Pluto and Neptune it is necessary to sort out what you want before the transit. You then stand a better chance of getting it. This is one of the blessings of knowing about astrology.

The progressed aspects of the outer planets and Saturn also make you look at two other things—the nature of desire and your motives. You can use progressions and transits to find out what activities and in what personal characteristics your ego is out of balance. Did you choose your wife on the basis of her ability to make *you* look good? This kind of ego will color all your actions and your criticisms. Does the same philosophy apply to your work or children? The emphasis is then always on the *I* and your ego is involved to the extent that it will be uncomfortable, not only for other people involved in these areas, but for you, yourself, because you can't do too much about ego attachments like these except understand and observe how they operate. Then you have a chance to change your attitudes.

The outer planetary progressions focus us on the nature of our basic belief patterns—where we are coming from. Do we come from right motives, do we want the most beneficial things both for ourselves and for our particular portion of society? The outer planetary transits bring situations that provide opportunities for us to refine our desires, examine our motives, and develop character traits and

talents that have long been hidden, or face up to ones that haven't worked well for us. The experience, if you watch the whole process taking place, can be absorbing and exhilarating.

Saturn transits test our attitude toward reality in terms of the interaction of our character and talents with the society in which we move, work, and play. If we want something we can never have, we will find Saturn difficult. If we think we are a certain sort of person, Saturn's influence will bring tests to show us whether or not we are, or whether or not we have strength in the relevant areas we think we have. I find that Saturn progressions and transits principally test whether we understand the extent of our limitations. These times also bring tests that have some effect on what work we do to earn money and very often place emphasis on our bank balance.

How Clients Respond to Transits

Individual responses to transits vary enormously. Some people react very strongly to the first and third transits of Saturn, Uranus, Neptune, and Pluto to natal planets. The example chart in the appendix of this book indicates such sensitivity and susceptibility to the slightest frustration that even a very minor contact between planets produced a reaction. Others have the majority of the activity on the second, or retrograde, transit. The third direct transit can be a consolidation of the whole period, or it can bring more important external events. Whether or not there is external action at the third transit, there is almost invariably a psychological "shift" in the unconscious taking place, with a new perspective on the nature of the matter involved. Generally, as mentioned, I have found that a major outer event caused by one or more transits creates a major change in outlook that even the client may not recognize until time has passed. I find there is usually great activity with the first transit, especially if it is a planetary combination that is not in the natal chart. Say transiting Pluto is coming to square aspect of a natal Moon and these two bod-

ies are not linked by even a minor aspect in the natal chart; the client is called upon to respond to a wholly new combination. The person has no previous experience of handling it, so he may react strongly. The person will have to learn how to combine the energies.

The planets represent psychological drives, and it is the aspects between them that are so important. In families, particular combinations of planets occur over and over again, involving all the major aspects. One family member may have the square, another the opposition, and so on; but it is the contact that is important.

The aspect connections between planets are important because they provide an opportunity for greater character integration. The more aspects, including minor ones, in the natal chart, the more opportunity there is for integration. This is why an unaspected natal planet can be the skeleton lurking in the cupboard, because it can't be integrated, at least not easily. By integration, I mean that psychological drives within us are given conscious expression in the life activities. For example, say a person has an unaspected planet in the sixth house. Very often with this, the person needs strong external pressure to go to work or to deal with any health problems. There is little self-motivation.

Easy aspects usually mean easier integration, but difficult aspects call for greater consciousness in order that we can make the necessary adjustments and live more comfortably with ourselves. Hard aspects are more likely to bring situations that produce an assault on our self-esteem—look at the examples of the two clients mentioned previously. This is why a strong natal Sun is a good thing to have. Whatever comes up in life, one can, generally, more easily remain the needle in the eye of the hurricane and keep one's self-esteem intact.

I have nothing to prove that the following remark is true, but I have noted it time and time again: We don't seem to be given anything that we are not capable of handling if we face up to the situation and utilize our talents. This applies to the most difficult problems

and sometimes even to a death situation. Passing this on to clients when doing their progressed charts is a big comfort.

Setting the Stage

I will now detail some of the natal chart analyses that affect the way one interprets the progressed chart. When you get progressed easy aspects between planets that are in hard angles natively, in my opinion, the year under consideration should be read as if the angles in the progressed chart are hard. In other words, a square is a square is a square. I have found that the progressed easy aspects enable one to understand and bear the tension more easily and gain a greater understanding of how the difficult natal aspects work; but they still qualify as a square. Usually you discover that you don't need to put as much physical and/or emotional energy into something to achieve results, but because you have a square natively, you think you do. In a really difficult year, you can learn how to deal with what needs immediate attention and take one day as it comes. The result is that usually you can view the natal hard aspect with more detachment. Squares are notoriously hard to "see" operating, but progressed easy aspects later on in life give us this chance.

People with what I would call "tough" charts, with many difficult natal aspects, often have greater ability to deal with hard progressed aspects between inner personal planets and the outer planets (including Saturn) than, say, people with easy charts. Bear in mind that Saturn is always Saturn, and no Saturn progression is going to be a ball of fun.

Here is an axiom, too. A chart with many difficult angles is not nearly as difficult in life terms as it appears. The client has no other reality with which to compare it. A chart full of trines and grand trines does not necessarily denote a lucky, easy life. A client of mine was the girlfriend of a pretty violent criminal in an Australian jail. As a result of doing his chart, I was asked to interpret the charts of sev-

eral men in the same jail. To my complete surprise, I found more grand trines than I've ever found before or since. The owners wanted something for nothing. Of course, they had difficult factors in their charts, as well. The most productive charts in terms of life achievements are often those with both T-squares and trines or sextiles to help out. Sextiles seem to denote intelligent use of the mind.

Be aware that if a planet is in its own sign or in the sign of its exaltation (where it expresses very well), such as Jupiter in Cancer, even though that planet has several difficult angles natively, by progression it will operate much better than, say, a Jupiter in Capricorn with easy angles. I have noticed this particularly in clients with Saturn in Aquarius, which it co-rules. Planets in the signs of their detriment and fall often make life a little more difficult for their owners. Saturn in Aries natively with trines and sextiles very rarely operates easily when progressed. Maturity is not achieved before first having to deal with some quite difficult situations.

This makes sense when you think about it. Saturn in Aries people find it hard to define who they really are, in their own right. Who is this individual called "me"? By having to go through the mill of life, these people are far more likely to have a clearer sense of who they are and their individual tastes and identities than if things arrived in their lap without much effort.

Always talk to your clients at great length, as this will enable you to find out whether they are likely to use a progressed Jupiter aspect to travel, to study, to start going to church or the mosque, to become fit and take up a sport, or to be inclined to cause a great deal of trouble by going overboard in the relevant areas of their lives. I recently had a friend with a progressed Sun trine Jupiter who had the opposition natively. During the progressed two years in question, he gave up smoking and started learning to play the piano (successfully, too, at a late age in life); but he became quite arrogant at close quarters and began to drink socially far more and to put on a great deal of weight,

which was very detrimental to his circulation. I have seen as much chaos from an overblown Jupiter progression than from supposedly destructive Uranus or constricting Saturn progressions.

When I was first learning astrology, I came across a written course in astrology by the Brotherhood of Light in Los Angeles. Their golden rule eventually became my golden rule when doing the progressed chart using the Placidus house system: In order that a certain event take place, there must be a relevant progressed aspect involving the planet in the house concerned natively, or the planet ruling the sign on the cusp of the house, connected with the event. The planet in the house acts more strongly than the planet ruling the sign on the cusp. For example, suppose you have a woman client you think will get married in a particular year for all the normal reasons, and she is planning to adopt her husband's name. In her progressed chart, I would expect there to be progressed aspects involving either the ruler of the seventh house or the natal planet(s) in it, if there is one. I would certainly expect the Sun to be involved in a strong progressed aspect, representing a man.

Apart from the seventh house, I would expect to see a progressed aspect by the ruler of the tenth house or natal planet in it (she's changing her status and name and becoming a married woman), by the ruler of the cusp or planet in the fourth house (she's setting up home), and by the Ascendant and/or Midheaven because it's a relationship issue. The planets in these houses natively or conjunct these points may be the ones to receive progressed aspects. If it's any kind of union involving affection or cooperation, I would expect Venus to be prominent, and, if it involves sex, probably Mars and/or Pluto.

So when you see progressed planets in aspect, look to see the relevant houses they rule and the houses they occupy natively, because that will be where the action is. Because life is so polarized, the houses opposite often have strong bearing on the event in the progressed chart. For instance, if you have a life crisis involving a death or a great change in life, very often it will change your values which is

a second house event. In the astrological chart, opposite houses are linked in meaning. Very often it is the transiting planetary trigger in the opposite house from the progressed aspect that sets off the progressed event.

Look to see if any of the planets, ruling or natively in a house indicating an event, have progressed into another house since birth. The affairs of that house may be involved. Always bear in mind that the Sun generally means men, authority, power, and will, while the Moon represents women, emotions, the home, security, and so on. Saturn has connections with authority, career, and job, even though it may rule the seventh house and be connected with marriage. This kind of delineation is for interpreting likely events in the life. An astrological psychological interpretation as to how these events are likely to change the person involves the same rulers, but it depends on what your client wants, of course. Discussion on the latter can only be entered into if your client leads you there.

Interpreting Converse Directions

As I mentioned previously, using the systems of solar arc, day-for-a-year, or radix method, and counting backward from the GMT date of birth reflects what is going on in the progressed chart using forward directions. This blew me away when I started using converse progressions as a backup system. For instance, as I write, by solar arc I have progressed Saturn trine natal Venus and converse Venus trine natal Saturn. I have found that the rules for progressed planets ruling the cusp or in relevant natal houses do not seem to apply stringently to converse directions, but the flavor or basic combination meanings of the planets still apply. Converse solar arc is the optional fourth method of predictive astrology, as I mentioned earlier on.

Using converse directions can be useful. For example, you may find a Sun/Mars progression and a Jupiter/Mars regression. Jupiter operates much like the Sun, and both combinations mean fortunate action and lots of physical energy. This regression would help me

when interpreting the chart by forward directions, because Sun/Mars can be quarrelsome, but, by seeing the Jupiter/Mars regression, I realize that my client will find it easy to take the positive route and express the exuberant energy of the Sun/Mars combination rather than the negative possibility. So, when interpreting converse directions, delineate the essential meaning of the combination of planets rather than looking to see which planets are in, or rule, house cusps.

Progressed Unaspected Planets

Unaspected planets in the natal chart need to be taken into account when they make progressed aspects. Broadly speaking, “no major aspects” means your client will not have experience connected with the unaspected planet until it suddenly creates mayhem in the life, when it makes a progressed or transiting aspect to a natal planet. I think it was Liz Greene who said in a lecture that an unaspected planet is like having something in the basement of your house, and when it appears on an upper floor, it is often quite shocking in terms of what happens in the life. People with an unaspected planet don’t appear to have the ability to integrate the energy of that planet with the rest of the chart. For instance, an unaspected Saturn means the person doesn’t seem to have fundamental self-discipline; or the person has a basically unsound attitude that hinders him. I have found two or three women with their natal Saturn unaspected who didn’t want to work. They felt their husbands should “keep” them according to their particular standards. Interestingly, Queen Elizabeth II of England has an unaspected Sun. She has mainly no say in what she does every day. Her equerry works out her schedule and reads her diary to her. She has a small amount of choice in how she juggles her events, but not much. She cannot impose her will in the same way that the rest of us can, and it will be harder for her to get what she personally wants. She has accepted her way of life and is increasingly respected. A person I knew intimately with an unaspected Sun was

quite arrogant at times, expected other people to constantly bend to her will, and demanded a great deal of attention.

Some planets are happy without aspects. Saturn, for example, doesn’t mind being alone, but Venus unaspected is much more miserable. I have found that women with an unaspected Venus are unsure of themselves as women and not confident of their appearance and their ability to socialize. I was given great insight into this when Venus went direct in one of their charts. This lady explained exactly how ugly and unsociable she had previously felt compared with the time when her progressed Mars sextiled her Venus, at which time she started making pewter jewelry.

It is important to interpret progressions affecting an unaspected planet logically. When it comes to a major aspect, like a progressed conjunction, it will be a totally new experience. This can be felt as either positive or negative. A progressed Mercury coming to conjunct an unaspected Saturn may be a very depressing influence until the client finds his mind is deepening and he can use it to think and to write in a constructive way. An unaspected progressed Venus coming to conjunct natal Jupiter will be such a delight, initially, that the person may go overboard in various ways. The person may, for example, have many inappropriate relationships or a totally exhausting social life. An astrologer has a supreme chance to help the person understand the energies of the unaspected planet and how it works in the person’s life. What I call the “overboard syndrome” becomes very apparent in astrology in many and varied circumstances. Our advice can do much to help clients understand what is happening to them.

For example, if someone has an unaspected natal Mars that makes a progressed aspect, the person may suddenly find he has a lot of energy, possibly sexual energy, that he can direct, or that he becomes irritated very easily and needs only the slightest trigger to become very angry inappropriately. As the person becomes used to the feelings and learns to handle them, he gets a balance in his character and

pulls back. He watches himself watching himself, but this takes time and understanding both from his family, his friends, and from himself when handling this newfound quality. It makes for a very interesting progressed period when an unaspected natal planet is involved.

An unaspected natal conjunction involved in progressed aspects (by solar arc together) can be a critical time for your client. By its very nature, certain drives within the psyche are not well integrated in the character. Generally, channels for personal expression of the nature of the planets involved are somehow blocked. A person I knew well had natal Venus and the Moon conjunct in Gemini unaspected in the fifth house. He also had an unaspected Mars in Libra in the eighth house. He had had three marriages and only dearly loved his second wife and her children by her first marriage. He hadn't been really attached to his first wife and let her take his only son away, never to see him again. He kept undermining his security because he was actively bisexual. Although he knew how he destroyed his marriages, he couldn't do anything about it. This same person eventually found he needed to live alone, but have a very active social and sporting life. Unaspected natal conjunctions obviously require a good deal of astrological talent to predict how they will express in the future. The person often feels split in two (to himself and to others), or there appear to be two distinct sides to the character.

Planets Progressing into Another House

When a planet progresses into another house, delineate it as being in the original house but with strong overtones of the progressed house placement. Interpret in the same way with retrogradation. For instance, in a client's chart recently, natal Mars in Cancer in the first house went retrograde by progression into the twelfth house and into the sign Gemini a year later.

Remember, astrology is a natural progression of life and not something apart from it. This person was over sixty. He said that sex was

no longer of supreme importance to him and that he wanted to study in his retirement. He developed twin interests—computing and astronomy (Gemini influence). He also developed high blood pressure, indicative of the first house natal Mars squaring Uranus. He said he felt “a lot less emotional” for the first time in his life. He also said he found he felt very warm toward women who were good conversationalists. If he'd had a natal Mars squaring Saturn, he might have developed arthritis and become involved in designing his retirement home. He still had a strong nurturing attitude toward his children (natal Mars in Cancer).

Another client, also retiring from work, with natal Mars in Libra progressing retrograde into the twelfth house, asked me to suggest interests. Retirement is often grade eight on the Richter scale of life crises for people who have been workaholics. This man, who had been a solicitor, became a voluntary helper at the Community Justice Center, arbitrating neighborhood problems.

Before we look at how planets operate when they are retrograde in the natal chart and see how a change in direction can really affect the life, we must first examine an extremely important feature, if it occurs natively or in the progressed chart.

Planets Changing Direction and Stationary Planets

I have found that retrograde planets operate subjectively and give rise to a great deal of introspection, and, until the person gets used to this modus operandi, he feels, as one client described it, “stranded.” In the 1970s, author Colin Wilson wrote a book called *The Outsider*. This is precisely how clients feel with retrograde planets. Initially, it feels as if a shutter has come down in the particular area denoted by the retrograde planet and the person is outside looking in at other people busy using the function of the retrograde planet. Correct delineation of the natal aspects to the planet turning retrograde (or

direct) are absolutely crucial to the interpretation of them in the progressed chart, and when explaining to your clients why they feel alienated in the area involved—Jupiter, socially, and so on; but when the retrograde planet is a natal condition, the person knows no other way of operating or of being. In the progressed chart, once the person has come to terms with the strange feelings involved in the change of direction, some very positive outcomes can be obtained. My own Mercury went retrograde for twenty years, during which time I studied endlessly. This included becoming an interior decorator and obtaining a qualification in journalism and three astrology diplomas. I certainly felt alienated, because in those days no one else I knew was even studying astrology or thought it more than a dinner-party joke. I was also working at a very repetitious part-time legal job while my children were young. This is another aspect of retrograde planets. An extroverted person may become extremely introverted in terms of the characteristics of the planet concerned. Initially, you want to socialize as you did before when Jupiter was direct, but find opportunities just aren't there when it's retrograde. This applies to Venus, too.

When a planet changes direction in the progressed chart, there is the opportunity for its owner to compare the forward movement both with the stationary and the retrograde period and appreciate the benefits obtained in the retrograde period. The exception to this is if a planet is in its fall or detriment natively, or if it is the chart ruler. The retrograde period is not felt to have any advantages at all. A retrograde Venus in Virgo, I find, only adds to Virgo's worries. If the retrograde planet is the ruler of the Ascendant, or the Sun ruler, the restrictions in the life can be felt very keenly indeed.

The most dramatic effect is when Uranus is involved. I had a series of clients' charts in which progressed Uranus went direct and they said, time after time, "I wanted to do my own thing," even to the extent of leaving their homes and marriages. I have noticed that Uranus going direct in the appropriate house is the prime indicator

of a marriage ending. I remember one man saying to me, "I haven't the time to get stuck in the scientific research I want to do. I'm too involved with the family." He tried hard to hang onto his marriage because he had a Capricorn Moon natively, which needed security, but it proved no match for a Uranus turning direct. Uranus was square Mars natively, so he and his wife had endless rows as his conflicting needs demanded to be dealt with. Another man had retrograde Uranus go direct in the eighth house, and he wanted to try out all sorts of sexual relationships and got bored with his marriage of twenty-three years.

The stationary period before a planet changes direction is extremely important in the natal chart. If a child is born within two days of the exact station (changing direction occurs over a five-day period), this planet seems to have enormous influence over the whole life, and conditions it signifies have permanence. Many theories support the fact that the planetary influence is emphasized because it is moving slowly. The Queen Mother of England had a stationary Saturn presiding over her birth. Her values of duty and right action have always been very important to her, and she was particularly angry with the Duchess of Windsor when she broke all the rules to marry King Edward VIII of Britain.

A natal stationary Jupiter can indicate a profound religious faith for the whole of one's life. Saturn can indicate restrictions or that the things one puts effort into will endure. Try looking at a few natal charts with a stationary planet at birth. During the stationary period in progressions, my students said they felt restless and dissatisfied with their jobs or their relationships, depending where the retrograde planet was positioned, as well as the house(s) it ruled. The more distant a planet, the greater the effect appears to be when it is stationary. I have found that these stationary periods indicate changes of major importance in my students' and clients' lives.

The Sun and Moon never experience retrograde motion. Both planets continue to move forward in their orbits. What varies is the angle from which they are seen from the moving Earth against the background of stars. Statistician/astrologer Dr. Geoffrey Dean, in his 1980s book *Recent Advances in Natal Astrology*, said that less than 8 percent of all charts will have no natal retrograde planets.⁵

If the ruler of your Ascendant is retrograde, and stays in that situation all your life, like Saturn can, it is particularly hard to obtain a sense of self vis-a-vis the world.

A quick rule-of-thumb method to interpret a retrograde planet is to put it figuratively into the sign Capricorn. Mercury in Capricorn is introspective, concentrated, contemplative, and intuitive. The function around a planet turning retrograde indicates the person will experience a profound psychological change of attitude and a change of gear from extroversion to introversion.

An example of this is a client with a Virgo Ascendant and natal Mercury in his fifth house. When Mercury went direct at age seventeen, the year before he took his Higher School Certificate and university entrance exam, he attended social dinner parties, had two girlfriends to help his Sagittarian Sun along, joined the school debating team, which won the district championship, and went on long, social bushwalks with friends. He studied very little until an exam was almost on top of him. The intense stationary period lasted about six months, and the conversion from introversion to extroversion lasted about a year. During that time he read and studied very little. He said he had had "a gutful of it."

Retrograde Venus appears to have the effect of making people unable to realize the love that is in their lives. They need constant demonstrations of affection. They feel unattractive, unable to socialize comfortably, and in need of more money. There are frequently relationship problems during the change of direction. Two mothers brought charts of their anorexic daughters, who had Venus turning

retrograde in their teens. The girls also had disturbances of their menstrual cycles because of malnutrition. A positive way to utilize the retrograde period is to develop a Venusian talent—anything artistic or creative. One of these girls became a hairdresser, and it helped during the adjustment period having to chat with her clients. Venus turning direct feels very beneficial socially, financially, and in relationships.

Retrograde Mars turns the competitive instinct inward, so that a runner will want to compete against his own previous times or the course record rather than other competitors. Many athletes, surgeons, and people who work and train in solitude have retrograde Mars. The change in direction, again, is the difficult period, and force of circumstances, like having to work fourteen-hour days, affected my clients, some of whom became ill with infectious ailments. Like Mars in Capricorn, the person can keep on keeping on! Resentment and depression can occur as the aggression is turned inward. Whatever has consumed the time and energy can suddenly become very boring as the will to do it dries up. There can presumably be sexual/relationship difficulties, but I have not had clients with these problems. My clients became self-starters and self-motivated, using the enormous energy available during the change-of-direction time very positively. Turning direct, Mars energy gives boundless enthusiasm for what interests the person and much energy and will to carry it out. Examine natal aspects carefully.

A retrograde Jupiter seems to allow its owner to respond enthusiastically to opportunities that have been abandoned or deemed useless by other people, especially in the stationary period. There seems to be an ability to uncover hidden potential in unlikely situations and businesses. There can be an inner faith in oneself or in an organized religion, or a crisis of faith, and the meaning of life can be questioned at the time of the change in Jupiter's direction. Natal hard angles incline the person to go overboard, especially when Jupiter goes direct. This can be quite disastrous and somewhat like flying in the

face of prevailing winds. Jupiter going direct increases faith in oneself and the ability to take more risks, and increases sociability, as Jupiter is our social “glue.” As one client put it when his Jupiter was stationary/direct, “I have the kind of faith in myself which makes me feel I can move mountains.” Another client with a first house Jupiter turning retrograde found his automotive business going downhill rapidly until it ceased to be. For the first time in years he had to look for a job and felt an extreme loss of confidence, optimism, and joie de vivre. He found it extraordinarily difficult to take orders from other people and to have a “boss” over him. Fellow employees found him arrogant, and said so. “I keep putting my foot in it,” he said. It took a year for him to adjust completely to his altered circumstances. Another client bought property well beyond his means when his Jupiter turned direct. Again, natal aspects tell the tale.

Saturn is perhaps the most testing planet to have change direction. If there are hard natal angles, there can be the feeling that fate will interfere with one’s best efforts, so what’s the use? There is a tendency with a retrograde Saturn, and at the time of the change in direction, to undermine one’s achievements, but often this is because the goals one has achieved were not one’s own but conformed to parental or societal expectations. The “I’m bound to lose” approach, of course, draws the very situations that make these people lose—in their own eyes, at least. They are very self-critical, which makes them feel quite inadequate at the time of the change of direction. Saturn going retrograde is an iconoclastic position in that during the stationary period the person tends to criticize others for the very things they are doing themselves.

The astrologer can be a great comfort in explaining what is going on and showing the person that it is not a life sentence. Self-employment is recommended as well as undertaking things the person is good at. The person tends to be a hermit and to feel loneliness acutely; but there are bouts of activity and forays into society with an

insatiable thirst for life experiences. A student of mine explained it to me very clearly. Her Saturn had gone retrograde three years before. She said she wanted to experience as many things as possible so that she wouldn’t ever get caught feeling inept at something, like a colossal insurance policy against being incapable. She noticed in herself that she had developed strong views on how the rest of the world should behave and had become a supporter of traditional roles since retrogradation. Saturn ruled her fourth house.

Going direct, Saturn indicates that one should consolidate, define the meaning of personal success in one’s own terms, and be prepared to work hard to integrate one’s values into one’s life. “I threw my negative self-talking out of the window,” said a male student of mine who started his own business. I noted that his period of adjustment to the change in Saturn’s direction lasted nearly eighteen months. Another friend with rheumatoid arthritis and a natal Mars square Saturn finally had to give away her beloved nursing career when Saturn went direct, but amazingly obtained a well-paid, sedentary counseling job.

I mentioned the dramatic aspect of Uranian changes in direction. This occurs when Uranus is strongly placed in the chart or is an angular planet. Retrograde, the person can want to reform everyone but himself because it doesn’t occur to him that he might need to work on himself. There is a tendency to pit oneself against authority or those who are considered to be competitors. The unique qualities are often best expressed when working alone, like designers or architects. The usual Uranian traits of seeking out friends or working in groups are not so apparent. Most of my clients and students with a retrograde Uranus worked extremely well with groups, but then went home and shut the door to be alone. The mental energies can be scattered, resulting in chaos, but one can certainly learn computing and astrology very well.

Uranus going direct destabilizes the area in which it is placed natively, and which it rules, as the desire to become free of restraint is expressed. As I just pointed out, the results can be very dramatic.

Neptune retrograde is extremely hard to see, and I was sent example cases by some of my students because I didn't have enough data. The owners seem to ignore the small voice of sound common sense inside themselves, which leads to a kind of self-destructive tendency, in spite of knowing that they are on a foolish course. They seem determined to play the victim game, and one client even said twice, "Poor little me," in the consultation. This attitude leads them into undermining situations where they lose, and then they can become even more of a martyr. Religious zealots can have a retrograde Neptune, using their beliefs to punish themselves for not being perfect. Another manifestation of Neptune retrograde is of always showing one's good side to the world.

All this can come to the fore at the time of a stationary change. The positive qualities of a Neptune retrograde position are that these people understand at very deep levels the psychological implications of situations, the games people play and why. There is a deep love of music, poetry, dancing, or the film industry. Along with this is an extreme psychological or bodily sensitivity to situations and substances, to the extent that ordinary living can become a torture. If Neptune is in hard angles natively, there is a double dose of introversion and possible internal chaos. At the stationary period, and when Neptune goes direct, if the person can find the courage to stand up to life and the situations he feels are threatening, then the whole picture changes. There is the immense Piscean resilience available and the ability to remain untouched the eye in the storm—my favorite Piscean phrase.

A student at a lecture of mine told me his natal seventh house Neptune had turned direct the year before. It was quincunx to Mars in the twelfth house and trine to Saturn and Mercury in his third

house. During the stationary period, he had broken up a business partnership that he had entered in a "foggy dew" and that had proved totally unsatisfactory. Interestingly, he also said he felt he was at last using his Pisces Ascendant qualities very positively and not operating on the polarity Virgo qualities with which he had previously functioned. "My picture cleared completely," he said.

Pluto is retrograde for such long periods that the stationary period is hard to analyze. Retrograde, there seems to be a strong tendency to go over old emotional ground and to be over-organizational, if the planet is prominent natively. The person tends to turn the energy inward somewhat destructively with an inclination toward self-flagellation and manipulation. A Pluto person can be fearful of expressing his own desires and power, thus leaving them open to being used pervertedly. Pluto going direct in one client's chart, as he put it, made him "cease going over old ground." He had pushed away a lot of old guilt and felt much less emotionally worried than he had previously. In psychological parlance he let go of a lot of old baggage.

Another lady client, describing her retrograde Pluto period, said she often felt her "psychic cupboard" was full of skeletons. She had the feeling that "if people really knew me they would not like me." My own son had his natively direct, first house Pluto go retrograde when he started school. It was a very small school with two very rough brothers from a problem family in his class who gave him an extremely hard time. He developed constant bronchitis. We took him away and he rapidly improved. That was the sixth-month period. In retrospect, I see he felt powerless to defend himself, and he was coping with too much at once, even though he had attended preschool.

When dealing with changes of direction, consider the essential meaning and natal position of the planet. For instance, I have seen a natively retrograde Jupiter turning direct expressed as much more sociability, an inclination to extravagance, and more joie de vivre. Turning retrograde, Jupiter can mean that the beliefs are turned inward and

held close to the soul, and much study is done in private. Owners of a retrograde Jupiter seem to experience much internal contentment, unless in very difficult natal aspects.

Retrograde planets can also be likened to planets acting from the twelfth house, so use this interpretation to help define their action, along with ascribing the Capricorn coloring to them.

Australian statistician/astrologer Geoffrey Dean, in his book *Recent Advances in Natal Astrology*, investigated astrological statistics. He found the following.⁶

	Stationary planet	Expected frequency	Observed frequency
109 male murders	Mercury	9.4	19
110 women bankers	Venus	1.9	8
110 solo sportsmen	Mars	1.4	3
300 aviators	Jupiter	7.5	18
300 prominent women	Saturn	7.9	16
300 prominent men	Saturn	7.9	13
110 women bankers	Uranus	3.0	9
110 men bankers	Neptune	3.0	10
150 clergymen	Pluto	4.1	12

Natal stationary planets have even been described as the superstars of a birth chart because they can be so dominant and powerful in the overall life destiny. They need careful delineation both natively and in the progressed chart.

Progressing a Stellium

A natal stellium occurs when three planets conjunct each other, usually in the same sign and house. Where there are four or more natal planets in one house, initially these people pour all their attention

into the opposite house. Slowly, as time passes, their focus is pulled back into the house containing the stellium. As an example, my daughter has four planets in the ninth house and didn't speak at all until she was nearly four. She suddenly spoke sixteen-word sentences and was able to make her third house operable. She said later that everyone spoke so fast, and she was trying to get meaning and words together, but there was too much input; and her elder brother interpreted her needs for her, anyway. This gave me great insight into how stelliums operate.

When planets belonging to such a natal stellium form progressed aspects, especially by solar arc, they bring abundant energy into the life because they have the multiple conjunction (the strongest aspect) natively, which produces an enormous amount of concentrated energy that has to be handled with great skill. The whole stellium can be triggered by a fast-moving planet like Mercury or Venus making a progressed aspect to it, or by a transiting planet that makes consecutive aspects to the whole stellium, planet by planet, which can be physically and emotionally exhausting. Currently, transiting Pluto is squaring the Uranus/Pluto in Virgo conjunction of the 1960s, so Virgo/Pisces people of that era will have stelliums that are affected.

Intercepted Houses

I use the Placidus house system. I have found that when a planet progresses out of an intercepted sign, the person is able to manage its qualities more easily and gain more general recognition from other people. For instance, a person would be considered much more beautiful or sociable when Venus progressed out of an intercepted sign. I have to say I have only observed one or two examples of this at very close quarters, as in close friends and family members. Consider a planet in an intercepted sign as having twelfth house connotations.

Miscellaneous Information on Progressing the Chart

Important years can be identified by progressed aspects to the Sun or by aspects to the ruler of the chart, which can be the Ascendant ruler, any planet conjuncting the Ascendant or Midheaven, a planet collecting a lot of midpoints, or a planet that is at the center of a T-square natally. A midpoint is equidistant from two other points in the horoscope; for example, a semisextile pattern would be created if one had the Sun at 10° Scorpio, Mars at 10° Virgo, and with Uranus at 10° Libra at their midpoint. This would be considered a tight midpoint.

As mentioned previously, any progressed aspects to the Sun are going to produce an important year for your client. This is logical when you think about it. The Sun is our life's force, our destiny, and represents what we want in life. If the Sun has only difficult aspects natally, whatever progressions occur later in life will bring some progress and advancement, but with great effort and stress; but this generally means this is how the person unconsciously wants it. The hard natal aspects denote the degree of difficulty. "No gain without pain" is a hard axiom, but it often seems to work this way and may be a fundamental belief of the person concerned.

Chart Emphasis

People with a natal grand trine or sometimes even the sextile pattern—three planets in sextile to each other—tend to become set in passive ways of behaving. It is hard for them to break out of behavioral ruts. When a natal grand trine is coming up to exactness in the progressed chart it can bring great opportunities if the person is willing to take the initiative. The sextile pattern usually indicates mental ability, as do many sextiles in the natal chart. Sextile people seem willing to make the required effort. This is something to point out to your clients.

Loaded areas of the chart definitely affect how a person responds to progressions. Look to see if the natal chart tends to be an eastern chart with most planets in houses ten through three. This is the proactive half of the chart, meaning the person is inclined to take action without forethought. A chart with a predominantly western-half occupancy (houses four through nine) denotes a reactive chart. This type allows the person to reflect before taking action, but also tends to make the person feel more at the mercy of other people's actions. When young, owners of western charts tend to be more passive and blame other people, God, or fate for their misfortune. Again, as these people grow older, they take more responsibility for their own actions and are able to say "no" when pressed by other people. This will make a difference as to how these people handle western-half natal planetary progressions. One client had a ninth house Mars progress into the tenth house. She joined Amnesty International and took action on behalf of refugees. Previously she had only thought of doing something like this.

Loaded occupancy of the upper half of the chart when progressed can mean these people concentrate on the external areas of life, such as their jobs, goals, and studying, but often these changes have profound psychological implications. I recently saw several charts where women with loaded ninth and tenth houses were in deep crisis because their career moves did not coincide with their husband's goals or the location of his job. It is always wise to link the progressed house with the opposite house and its meaning. This also applies to planets occupying the houses below the horizon.

When interpreting progressed grand trines or T-squares in which there is some part of these configurations in houses seven through twelve, pay particular attention to the planets above the horizon. People tend to concentrate on the energy of the planet(s) above the horizon and "put all their eggs in one basket," and then get forced to pay attention to planet(s) below the horizon and act in a way that is

either unbalanced or out of touch with reality. Energy from planets above tend to be easier for people to see and therefore to use. This was the classic lesson for people born around my birth time who had Neptune above the horizon, opposed to Saturn below. We were all exposed to the unreal romantic attitudes of the 1950s and had to learn reality step by heavy step.

Decanates in Progressions

As students of astrology know, decanates are the 10° periods within each sign. The first decanate of any sign is the accentuation of that sign. For instance, the first 10° of Capricorn form the Capricorn decanate, the second 10° constitute the Taurus decanate, and the third 10° are the Virgo decanate. I have found the decanate characteristics to be quite strong when a planet progresses from one decanate to the next, especially if it is the ruler of the Ascendant or Sun. Within each decanate are the duads of two-and-a-half degrees. Refer to Acker and Sakoian's book *The Zodiac within Each Sign* if you want to know more.

When the Sun, the Ascendant ruler, or the Sun ruler enter a new decanate, there are quite marked changes in the person's attitude toward life and, funnily enough, in their appearance. I have seen any number of progressed Suns move out of Capricorn into Aquarius and the hair of my clients has started going curly or they have chosen to have it permed. If any of these planets enter a new sign, the changes are accentuated. This is because neighboring signs are usually very different—Cancer and Gemini, Aries and Pisces, and so on. For example, the progressed Sun changing sign nearly always marks a life change in some way. Capricorns become much more sociable when their progressed Sun enters Aquarius, and Aries people go off to the country or build houses when their progressed Sun enters Taurus. To test the theory, watch someone's Sun or Ascendant ruler progressing into another sign.

Here is some "potted wisdom" to help you interpret the effects of the Sun in particular, the Sun ruler, and the progressed Ascendant and its ruler changing decanates and going into the following signs.

Aries: Often begins something new, which can be pioneering in a particular area; there is more risk taking, energy, and activity. The person becomes obviously enthusiastic compared with the thirty years of Sun in Pisces, and much more able to make decisions; but remember the Aries inclination "I'm for me," which can really throw a relationship into a spin after thirty years in the gentle, kind Pisces sign.

Taurus: More emphasis on building something, a business or house, on stability, security, country living, investments, financial affairs, and the social life. Taurus really enjoys living—it's all that earth!

Gemini: Much more restless, wants more variety in life; moves house, home, or job; has new interests which often include study, writing, communication, and other such means of self-expression, acting, for example.

Cancer: Emphasizes domesticity and the family; businesses to do with public commodities, opening a shop, teaching, entertaining, parental and grandchildren responsibilities. Cancer also likes acting.

Leo: Can achieve recognition; emphasis on entertaining, theatrical work, achieving promotion, and stability.

Virgo: Work becomes more important; emphasizes balancing mind and body, health, further education, writing, critic for a newspaper, or social work. The person is much more self-effacing than the previous Leo occupancy denoted.

Libra: May marry, partnerships become important—business or personal. The person often becomes interested in businesses involving the arts, jewelry, floristry, computer work of any sort, new studies, often denotes legal work.

Scorpio: New beginnings, medical work, psychological study or work, legacies, grandparents become prominent, sometimes complete ending of important life phases involving saying “goodbye” to friends and family. People often become interested in self-development courses.

Sagittarius: Can become interested in sports, travel, or higher or continuing education. People need more time alone or to live alone (the hermit side of Sagittarius). The person takes an interest in religion or teaching. I have had senior natal Sun Libran citizens take courses in the University of the Third Age (for people over age sixty), for instance.

Capricorn: More ambitious, business interests prominent, hard-working period, interest in genealogy, home building, may buy a rural property.

Aquarius: Wants more independence, divorce, breakup of existing conditions, scientific computing interests more prominent, many more friends or acquaintances. People want to join clubs.

Pisces: Sometimes disorientation and confusion, initially. Later on, interest in charities can develop, humanitarian work can become important, and artistic talent is more easily expressed. The person can be involved in religious institutions or hospitals in some way. There is perhaps isolation from public life or from the family.

Remember to look at all the progressed elements as they become applicable. For instance, the Pisces interpretation applies to the second decanate of Scorpio.

All of these descriptions involve profound psychological changes, such as those that occur when a person retires or emigrates, so these interpretations are only to set you thinking. Astrologers tend to forget that astrology is part of life. It would be natural for someone at age sixty to go to the country upon retirement. Progressed Sun going into Taurus is a reflection of this.

The same principles apply when the progressed Sun, planets, and angles change houses. A second house natal Sun progressing into the fourth house may mean the owner purchases what he considers to be his real home. On the psychological level, it may mean a complete change of values because some of the built-in life beliefs and attitudes that were laid down when he was very young come to light and can be reevaluated.

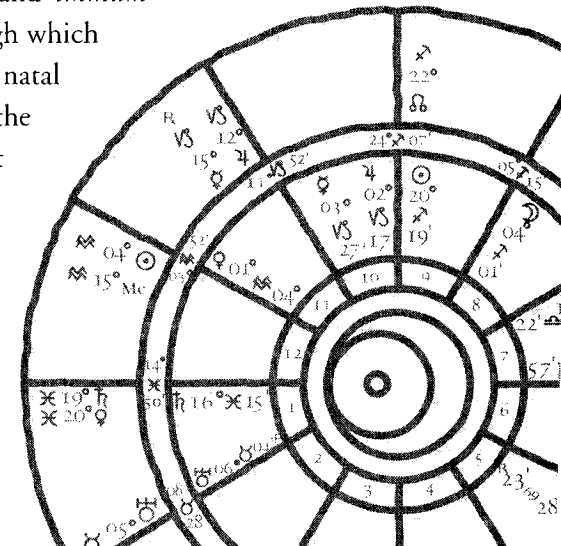
Notes

1. I have deliberately not included calculations for those of you who do not have computers, as an inexpensive and fully comprehensive book for all astrological calculations is available. I recommend *The Astrology Book of Calculations* by Chris Turner, which is available by mail. Her address is 24 Berryman Street, North Ryde, NSW, Australia, 2113. Her e-mail address is faacturner@ozemail.com.au.
2. Ibid.
3. See Zipporah Dobbins and Nancy Roof, *The Astrologer's Casebook* (Los Angeles, Calif: Tia Publications, 1973) 5.
4. See Alan Epstein, *Psychodynamics of Inconjunctions* (York Beach, Maine: Samuel Weiser, 1976) 4.
5. See Dr. Geoffrey Dean, *Recent Advances in Natal Astrology—A Critical Review 1900–1976* (London: Astrological Association of Great Britain, 1977) 435.
6. Ibid., 443.

Planetary Progressions to the Ascendant and Midheaven

The Ascendant and Midheaven are important components of the structure of the personality. It is in this area that progressions can have the most impact. They affect how you project yourself in the various situations in your life and to other people. The Ascendant aspects especially can mean changes in your body, either through illness or through fitness regimes you adopt, or through natural processes such as aging.

The four angles of the natal chart, the Ascendant-Descendant and the Midheaven-Nadir (old astrology books will call these latter two *medium coeli* and *imnum coeli*), are the crucial axes through which is discharged the power of the natal and progressed planets. As with the progressed Sun, everything that has any kind of impact on the individual will have a progressed aspect to the Ascendant or Midheaven—and obviously to the Descendant



and Nadir at the same time. This can be the progressed Ascendant and Midheaven making an aspect to a natal planet or a progressed planet aspecting the natal Ascendant and Midheaven. The main difficulty for astrologers is that so few people know their exact birth time on which the calculation of these points depend.

Simplistically put, the Ascendant determines how you view life. If you have a Libran Ascendant, you will view life through a Libran camera lens. With an Aries Ascendant, you'll look through an Aries lens. This applies to the manner in which you interpret your environment; in other words, your personal interface. Another way of looking at the Ascendant is as the source of unconscious belief patterns you have stored, in terms of how you interpret everything you see. This interpretation will occur according to a Libran program or an Aries program, and so on. This, of course, governs the way you operate. Librans want other people to think well of them, so they exhibit polite, refined behavior, they say "please" and "thank you." Aries people, on the other hand, want what they want when they want it and don't really care about too much else. Capricorns want to get the job done and, subtle sign that it is, if that means that being polite will help, they'll be so. If a fairly determined approach is seen as what's wanted, they'll use that, but only if they are of a certain age and have gotten over their shyness.

Interestingly, parents, often seeing only the Ascendant qualities, try to push the child into exhibiting these qualities, regardless of the Sun sign. Libra is encouraged to be the sweet little girl, but there might be a strong Aries or Scorpio behind the mask, or the tomboy Sagittarian. The Sun qualities are made to take a back seat during childhood, and this does have an impact on the child.

The Midheaven interpretation is more concerned with how others see you. The lion in *The Wizard of Oz* probably had his Sun on the MC, since we see lions as strong and powerful; but he could have had

Neptune conjunct Mars on the Ascendant, as well. Deep inside he was very unsure of the courage he was supposed to have.

When progressing a chart, very often the same aspect interpretations can be applied to the Midheaven or the Ascendant. They seem to be interchangeable. This should always be borne in mind. The one exception I have found is health. Aspects to the Ascendant more often apply to health issues.

The following guidelines apply to the aspects made by the progressed Ascendant and Midheaven to natal planets by the methods outlined in chapter 1. Progressed planets making angles to the natal Ascendant and Midheaven can be interpreted by the same means. As always, the guideline interpretations will depend on the natal aspects to the two angles and on natal aspects of the planets involved.

When interpreting progressed aspects, be aware that the person can express the negative side of the Ascendant sign. For instance, Aries can find it very hard to make decisions, and Librans can be too competitive and noncooperative. Cancers can be very mercenary, while Capricorns manipulate to gain their purposes.

Sun Aspects to the Ascendant and Midheaven

When the Sun aspects the Ascendant and Midheaven, the possibility of achieving what one wants is given in abundance. One's individuality shines through. It is possible to become a leader, to start your own business, to show enterprise and daring, and, above all, to achieve recognition in whatever sphere you operate.

If the period of two years (one year applying and one year separating from the exact aspect) is used wisely, expanding the positive qualities of your character (Sun sign), this will result in increased self-confidence and reward for your endeavors—nothing will happen if you sit at home waiting for the crown to be put on your head. Reinforced internal self-esteem, willpower, and increased determination to succeed can all be yours. Intuitive understanding of your life's individual meaning

can be attained. You will be better able to comprehend your particular myth or purpose in life at a deep level. For example, the myth of Capricorn is the goat ascending the mountain of ambition, reaching the summit, and then realizing that ambition must be held in perspective. Our good mountain goat then descends to help other people to the summit, and by so doing, changes his corner of the world. The domestic-goat Capricorn person never admits to being ambitious, but remains tethered at the bottom of the hill.

The increased self-confidence during the Sun's progression automatically brings notice from people in authority, whether at work or at play. It could be when dealing with the government, the church, or local council. There are many ways in which the Sun can shine. If you are a woman, the men in your life will affect you positively because the Sun represents the masculine side of life.

If the Sun has difficult natal angles, when progressed to the Ascendant and Midheaven, there will be a tendency to let the surge of power go to one's head, leading to arrogant behavior and false pride, which puts people off. It makes sense if you think about it. If a person doesn't have much self-esteem or a balanced character and suddenly has feelings of personal power not previously experienced, he may not have the wisdom to use authority wisely and tend to go overboard. But it is possible to learn from mistakes. Initially you can go overboard, become too self-important; but as the progression lasts two years, as the Sun approaches and separates from the degree of exactitude, opportunity exists for major learning and understanding of yourself and what your true goals are in life.

It is a time when those destined for power and fame can make their impression on their environment and on people. It is a time when you can learn how your core energy is expressed and where your method of operating in life needs modifying. It is also a time to become independent of all self-imposed restrictions put in place through negative, unconscious programming.

I have noticed that clients with natal hard angles between the Sun and Ascendant or Midheaven can react negatively at the first progressed contact, but by being willing to understand and work with their problems, they have obtained the positive results later as their self-esteem increases their sense of security and personal confidence.

This applies to all progressed aspects and any combination of planets. The people with easy natal aspects combining the planets in progression obtain the "goodies" without apparently having to go through the difficult times first; but they are not given the opportunity to acquire the in-depth understanding that the person with difficult angles can gain from the experience of a progressed combination. People who make mistakes learn more. It is only when we go on making the same mistakes that we become fools.

With the Sun/Ascendant progression, there is a strong desire to have intimate relationships with others. It can even be on the emotionally competitive level. Often a close relationship or bond with a male (for either sex) forms at this time. Negative incidents that can occur during this progression include death of the father or of someone in authority. Events can occur that include all the opposite of the above delineations, such as share losses and failure of long-term plans. The health is adversely affected because the Sun is the engine of life, so there can be heart trouble, high blood pressure, or back and eye problems. It is important to have all these areas as healthy as possible before entering a Sun/Ascendant progressed period. It is a time of enormous vitality and good health if even a little energy is invested in keeping fit. Examine the parts of the body connected with the Sun sign—knees for Capricorns, bladder and reproductive organs for Scorpios, kidneys and back for Librans, and so on.

Examples of incidences experienced by clients of mine include marriage, parenthood, becoming the leader of an orchestra, entering politics, inheriting money from the father, doing well on the stock

market, buying a house, public prominence, and promotion to a long-sought-after and responsible job.

When dealing with Sun progressions, watch the sign opposite the natal Sun sign, because it is where you may expect frustration and you have to meet this frustration halfway. It is sensible to advise clients of this. For instance Sagittarians find communicating what they want to convey quite difficult; Geminis find applying their thoughts to something that has depth or meaning equally hard. Both signs have to work at the qualities represented by the opposite sign. Remember this when the Sun is involved in progressed aspects to the Ascendant, Midheaven, or other planets.

Moon Aspects to the Midheaven and Ascendant

The following interpretations only apply to progressed planetary aspects to the natal Moon. Aspects from the progressed Moon to the angles are ephemeral and indicate appropriate times for good relationships, dealings with the public or women in general, and times when one is more emotional than usual. The length the progressed Moon's aspects apply is approximately two months. It is a short period when feelings are strongly affected and can be used as a timer of events. During these two months, one can be very subjective about matters and not see the other person's point of view.

The Moon in the chart indicates what you need in order to feel materially and emotionally secure. The way intimates, friends, and the public react to you gives you information that enables you to form your self-image. The natal Moon's sign and house also indicate the unconscious needs and conditions you require, especially in your home, in order to feel comfortable.

When the progressed Ascendant and Midheaven make an aspect to the natal Moon, the protective, nurturing side of our nature is stimulated and easily expressed, bringing out our sensitive, cherished desires—the romantic side of us and what is loosely described as our

“soul.” It is a time when emotions are near the surface. The easy angles bring happiness through the heightened sensitivity to our own and other people's needs. Under the difficult aspects, initially, one is overemotional, can cry easily, or be easily hurt. There is the opportunity for great richness of feeling for those near and dear, for music and creative interests. It can be a time of retreat from the noise and bustle of everyday life, and there is an opportunity to recharge the batteries through solitude and reflection.

It is a time to get more closely in touch with your own moods and feelings. Because of this, people who find it difficult to express their emotions should take every opportunity to get to know this side of their nature. Initially it will be difficult and upsetting, but if the effort is made, much can be learned. By expressing more warmth and feeling, people will find they receive the same warmth from others close to them.

Although any connection between the natal Moon and the angles can mean emotional contacts are desired, the hard angles can mean that you can get so wrapped up in your own moods and emotions that it becomes hard to see anyone else's point of view. The moods can also change rapidly, depending on the natal lunar aspects. For instance, if the Moon is connected to Uranus natively, this trait will be even more prominent. Fixed-sign Moons are more stable. You can overreact to impressions of people and situations. It is not a time when logical thinking is strong. Important decisions made during this time need careful scrutiny.

There is great restlessness because change and fresh experiences are sought. At the same time, you will be better able to assimilate experiences. You will experience strong emotional reactions to what is happening in your life and to past memories and experiences that evoke strong sentiments. There is a strong need to cement emotional ties.

There can be publicity—favorable or unfavorable depending, on natal Moon aspects. The same applies to popularity—it can increase

or decrease. Women—wives, mothers, daughters, and sisters—often become prominent in your life. There can be dealings with the public and an emphasis on all occupations associated with the Moon, like nursing, catering, the hospitality industry, and the navy. Hobbies taken up can include water sports, sailing, and canoeing, and making craftware products such as pottery, macramé, jewelry, and enameling.

This period indicates a time to sort out what you want and need in order to feel nurtured. Like Pluto progressions, what you emotionally desire is really important because you may get it. The unconscious is at work. If the natal Moon is in Cancer or there is a natal Cancer Sun or Ascendant, or the natal Moon is in an angular house, this axiom applies even more strongly.

On the psychological level, because the Moon indicates the kind of mothering you felt you received, these progressions indicate a very good time to right any misunderstandings and reform your self-image, first obtained from your mother's reactions to you. It is a time to get in touch with your mother and talk about the past.

Emotional upsets can cause ailments connected with the breasts, lymph glands, stomach, intestines, ovaries, uterus, and mucous membranes. There may be menstruation problems, cancer, and, of course, the Moon was always said to have connections with insanity. For those experiencing simultaneous progressed difficult aspects involving the Moon and Mercury, and if both these bodies have difficult natal aspects, there is a need to plan as quiet a time as possible in case the nervous system becomes exhausted and overstimulated.

My clients' progressions resulted in two men getting married, another becoming matron of a hospital, and another becoming headmistress of a comprehensive school. Other events included the birth of twin daughters, several house moves, a plane crash, and the publication of a cookbook.

Mercury Aspects to the Midheaven and Ascendant

More than any other progressed aspects, the interpretation of Mercury aspects to the Ascendant and Midheaven depend on the sign and aspects of the natal Mercury, as this planet absorbs character from its contacts. All Mercury matters—communication, transport, young children, writing—become prominent in the life. I am writing this book with progressed solar arc Mercury trine my Ascendant, and converse solar arc Ascendant trine my natal Mercury. A person feels more intellectually alive, curious, and willing to learn and exchange ideas at this time.

To communicate well is one of the greatest gifts, and this period provides opportunities to learn where communication methods, and especially listening habits, can be improved. It is a time when feedback from other people can be assimilated.

The easy angles allow one to accept challenges to one's ideas without overreacting. The mind moves at an acceptable pace and, although days may be very busy and packed with variety, it is at a rate that can be managed well. It is a time to be wary of malicious gossip—perpetrating it or being on the receiving end of it. During the progressed hard aspects between Mercury and the angles, everything seems to be on the boil: Ideas overflow, the pace of events is hard to handle, and endless analysis of people and situations can make one nervous and unpopular. I cannot stress enough that the natal aspects are all-important. It can be a time when communication is cut off, as occurs at retirement. One of my clients was a young child with Mercury in Cancer who was sent to boarding school at the age of nine. I was asked to do the chart because the child was so distressed.

Powers of adaptability, perception, comprehension, and commercial ability are stimulated. Every means of self-expression can be utilized. It is a time for further education, public speaking or such training, scholastic honors, travel, and making money, the latter if Mercury is connected to the second, fifth, or eighth houses.

On the health side, these aspects can indicate asthma, headaches, trouble with the thyroid gland, hands (one client broke a wrist and thumb skiing), upper arms and shoulders, the vocal cords, hearing, speech, sight, amnesia, insomnia, and anything to do with the nervous and respiratory systems. As always with progressions and health, if you know what is going to be prominent and you have a health weakness, then working on it can improve the affected part considerably. Even with unavoidable conditions such as organ degeneration in old age, working on the health makes the person better able to cope with any crisis. The part of the body ruled by the sign on Mercury's house and the houses Mercury rules—Virgo and Gemini—and those houses opposite, are vulnerable. With other progressions in force as well, creating some larger crisis, Mercury can indicate taut muscles and tension in upper arms and shoulders to the extent that you have to visit a chiropractor to “free up” the bones and muscles.

One young client discovered that her previously undiagnosed allergy to any kind of nut had caused her asthma problem. The aspect was Mercury square the Ascendant, and it took her a while to absolutely insist on restaurateurs informing her if their food contained nuts. Initially, she was not assertive enough, and nearly died as a result. Her problem was solved with the difficult angle, forcing her to become more insistent on the truth and more self-assertive.

My clients experienced events that included the birth of children and grandchildren, becoming editor of a country newspaper, winning scholarships, buying a bookshop, driving a school bus after a long period of unemployment, buying the wrong block of land (not enough attention was paid to the land plan), the onset of motor neuron disease, and suffering from agoraphobia.

Venus Aspects to Ascendant and Midheaven

When Venus aspects the Ascendant and Midheaven, it is generally an enjoyable time. Human relationships run smoothly and the ability to

express artistic talent in its many forms is there. All the lovely Venusian qualities can be developed and used to gain honors, popularity, friendship, romance, and marriage (more likely for men), and improvement in the finances.

Events can occur involving one's wife, sisters, daughters, young women, the birth of children, and decorating the home. There can be associations with occupations such as music, painting, cosmetics, dancing, floristry, clothing, choreography, dressmaking, and decoration of any sort. As with every other planet, the negative use of Venus can be a learning experience. If, natively, Venus is connected to Pluto or Mars by difficult aspects, it is a time to learn of possessiveness in relationships—love and hate are twin sides of the same coin. There can be broken attachments as a result of inappropriately expressed love and also because one can be very lazy under these progressions. Self-indulgence may put other people's backs up or other people can take advantage of one's inclination to have peace at any price. Misplaced affections can bring trouble if the natal chart indicates this.

Venus progressions can occur at the time of divorce or separation, because they bring a restoration of harmonious circumstances into the life. This sometimes takes the form of the death of loved ones, or even of oneself, following a long and painful illness. Death is a release from suffering.

Unless Venus is linked with Saturn natively, it is difficult to be disciplined under these progressions, so there can be overeating and drinking. Serious infections of the throat and tonsils can occur as well as problems with goiter, the skin, and kidneys. In women, the reproductive organs are especially vulnerable. Cancer can affect the lymph glands, breasts, ovaries, and prostate. Again, look at the house and sign the natal Venus occupies, the opposite houses, and the signs Taurus and Libra on the cusp of houses. As always, examine the sixth house carefully.

Apart from experiencing marriages and births, my clients joined a ballet company, studied painting, had their first romance, made a film, bought and decorated their first home after spending a lifetime in company property, studied floristry, and bought a holiday home for winter skiing. One client lost her home through a de facto relationship. Others lost custody of children after divorce, one lost his wallet with hundreds of dollars in it, another became infected with genital herpes, and another young student failed to gain his much desired entry to university. Several parents whose adolescent children had drug problems came to me. One client (with a Uranian progression as well) took a risk and sunk all her money into her own art gallery—which succeeded.

Mars Aspects to the Ascendant and Midheaven

Mars has been called the “power behind the throne,” meaning its action in life is to back up the “I want, I will” characteristics of the Sun. It is not a “mini-Sun” as Jupiter is; it represents the drive, initiative, and powers of self-assertion needed to accomplish goals. This energy can be reduced to some degree when Mars is in Pisces, conjunct Neptune, or in the twelfth house.

When Mars aspects the Ascendant and Midheaven by progression, initiative, drive, competitive feelings, the sex drive, aggressive instincts, and decision-making abilities are all emphasized. The person becomes more conscious of his aims and objectives. There is the quality of resolution and determination which gives strength to the personality. One can feel the exuberant energy.

Clients can take full advantage of a Mars progression when they have foreknowledge of it, which helps direct the incoming energy. Leadership potential is there, and active teamwork in any area is a possibility. This progression assists any action involving courage, organizational ability, and risk taking. It works well if the natal Mars is in easy aspects, but does not preclude a successful outcome if natal or progressed aspects are difficult. It can mean the person will have a

few trial-and-error experiences before gaining understanding and obtaining his goals.

Astrologers can be particularly useful when advising parents of teenagers with this progression. The young person has no experience of how to direct this energy positively, and, coming at this time, it is particularly hard to handle. I usually recommend enormous amounts of directed physical energy—surfing, windsurfing, swimming, gymnastics, football, ballroom dancing, and so on. One of my clients organized gliding lessons for the adolescents in his club when his son had this progression. The son told me he directed the energy into concentrated mental energy in the air and ran around the paddocks before and after his flights.

Marriage for women is indicated (hopefully at the same time as a progressed Venus aspect, showing willingness to cooperate). Other indications include the birth of a son or grandson and action in the lives of young men close to the person. There can be connections with people in Martian occupations, such as surgeons, dentists, policemen, firemen, butchers, sportsmen, and members of the armed forces.

Mars can bring many difficulties if it is misused. There is a tendency to fire from the hip when one thinks one's ego is under threat, which it generally isn't under this progression. All natal pugnacious tendencies are displayed in their full glory. Anger, appropriately expressed, is an essential tool in life. Under a difficult Mars progression, the person can be left to clean up the mess and patch up relationships when the aspect has passed. Hopefully the person will be wiser, if sadder. It is wise under this progression to try not to drive, fly, or take part in physical activities when angry.

Healthwise, broken bones, accidents, inflammatory and contagious conditions, genital and blood disorders, hemorrhage, and muscular strains are indicated. There can be problems with the adrenal glands, cartilage and tendons, the head, nose, and bile, and troubles affecting the motor nerves. One client was diagnosed with multiple

sclerosis. Examine the house containing Mars and its aspects, the opposite houses, and the Aries and Scorpio houses.

My clients' experiences have varied widely. They include a stab wound outside a pub, a crash in the mountains of New Guinea when flying after a violent argument, meningitis, extensive nettle stings while climbing in the Himalayas, being picked for an Olympic team, being chosen commander of a military squadron and sent overseas to maintain peace, marriage, births, becoming the leader of a scientific research group, building an experimental house made with a new plastic material with an environmental group, and a teenage youth gaining a ballet scholarship and joining a dance company.

Jupiter Aspects to the Ascendant and Midheaven

When Jupiter aspects the Ascendant and Midheaven, generally it ushers in a period of warm, fuzzy feelings toward others and a time for the "getting of wisdom." People lucky enough to have this progression will have opportunities for advancement in many areas because of their pleasant disposition, positive optimistic attitudes, tolerance and kindness, and their ability to meet other people halfway.

There are opportunities to make decisions requiring sound judgment, so business decisions, buying property, and generally expanding one's life in any area of interest is advised at this time. There can be gains through wise advice from friends or those in authority. All this brings popularity, prestige, and increased social contacts, as Jupiter is our "social glue."

It is a good time to broaden the educational interests through study and travel. Publishing and sporting interests can be advanced. Joyful emotional experiences occur, so there may an engagement, marriage, birth of a child, gains through litigation, and contacts with charitable institutions through the church and universities.

Jupiter's negativity displays through thinking one is more important than one really is. The person can be quite overbearing. There

can be an arrogance that is particularly offensive to others, a kind of know-it-all attitude without knowledge or wisdom. Extravagance, carelessness, financial loss through misplaced advice, bad judgment, overoptimism, trouble in any of the affairs mentioned in the previous paragraph, and an inclination to take on too much and not be able to cope are likely scenarios at this time if the natal Jupiter or the progression has difficult aspects.

Sickness can occur as a result of a surfeit of food or drink or of being overweight. The liver is Jupiter's organ and this can be overloaded. Hip replacements may be needed, and diabetes, gout, heart problems, high blood pressure, stroke, or pleurisy can occur at this time. Exercise, dieting, and hard work can solve most Jupiter complaints. Examine the houses connected with Jupiter and the parts of the body they rule. Also, the house opposite the one Jupiter is currently transiting sometimes indicates where one is being overly optimistic or taking foolish risks.

My clients' experiences include becoming Grand Master of a Masonic lodge, winning scholarships, gaining degrees, emigrating, publishing, getting married, getting divorced—Jupiter emphasizes desires for freedom—taking sabbatical leave, being swindled out of the profits of the sale of a business, being diagnosed as an alcoholic and joining Alcoholics Anonymous, collapse of the liver after years of drinking, having a child and the de facto partner leaving, and conversion to Buddhism.

Saturn Aspects to the Ascendant and Midheaven

As Saturn in the chart represents how the person sees reality, its influence is extremely important when interpreting progressed aspects. Transiting Saturn below the horizon is an indication that the person is defining and developing his own character and potential. The person is, or should be, working toward understanding himself and his own world and how he operates in it.

Saturn is such an important influence that I will mention that natal Saturn making a difficult aspect to the Midheaven or the Ascendant, in particular, usually means the person has an unrealistic view of life. This is why the old astrology books interpret these squares and oppositions as hard. In practice, I have found the person expects everything to go his way. He can behave how he wants and push for what he wants, regardless of the conventions of society in which he lives. Or he may expect everything to come to him and be resentful when it doesn't. These people have to be taught that life is life and that's the way it is. They are not handpicked for a special fate. When things don't work out according to their unreal expectations, they can withdraw from people in a kind of sulk or secret cosmic temper tantrum, and this withdrawal can become a rigid habit pattern.

Of course, the old books can be right—the family or authority figures at work may be hard on the individual, but generally deep in the unconscious I have found that the person has an attitudinal problem. We're back to what Carl Jung maintained, that all we can change is our attitude toward events.

When Saturn, by transit, conjuncts the Descendant and traverses houses seven through eleven, it is an admonition to turn one's attention to aspects in the world outside one's inner psychological structure and examine how one operates in the tangible world. Saturn's transit of the twelfth house is a disintegration of any superfluous structures not wanted in the future development of the unconscious. This often manifests externally as a dismantling of external structures that the individual has established in the world.

Progressed aspects to the Ascendant and Midheaven are extremely significant because Saturn is strongly connected with status and occupation. Saturn is exalted in Libra, and in no area is discipline more required than in relationships. Aspects to the Ascendant can provide a good opportunity to learn how one operates vis-à-vis other people. Positively displayed, there is loyalty and responsibility to one's part-

ner, friends, family, and coworkers. Negatively used, there is a requirement that partner, children, and friends live up to very high standards and conform to one's own expectations. There is an inclination to control situations rigidly.

A good example of this occurred with a client of mine who came from a Middle Eastern country where children and wives almost paid homage to the father as the man of the house. Women were chaperoned and had strict religious codes of behavior. Western expression of familial respect is very different in Australia, and young teenage girls have boyfriends and go out alone or with friends.

My client, the father, was almost suicidal because he was called upon, under a strong Saturnian aspect to his Ascendant, to relax his old customs regarding relationships and learn new attitudes aligned to the ideas of his adopted country—a very difficult time for him. Saturn and the Sun form opposite sides of the ego structure—what I want balanced with what I can expect in terms of the reality in which I find myself. He had chosen his new country, but wanted to impose his old customs rigidly on his children. Although astrologers can advise on how to have the right attitude under such a progression, Saturn is always Saturn and it is not an easy time.

Responsibilities are considerably increased, and anything superficial to the tasks at hand is eliminated. Life generally becomes more complex, but simpler at the same time. Saturn is an admonition to eliminate the superficial in one's life. Hanging on is another characteristic, because initially one doesn't want to let go. There are feelings of insecurity. One can't see the view on the other side of the progression until it has passed. There is an inclination to think the worst. In this respect, Saturn operates like Pluto. If clients know this is how the progression manifests, that these pessimistic views are normal at this time, it helps them relinquish people and situations that no longer have relevance. It helps them understand that this is what their unconscious really wants for future development.

Because there is little time for the more frivolous aspects of life, the person is serious and self-disciplined, able to organize and concentrate resources, and seek out, or be given, greater responsibilities. There is integrity and stability as the person goes about establishing his affairs on a thoroughly practical basis. This applies to relationships, marriage, and establishing a home, as well as to anything concerned with job, business, or profession and generally with earning a living.

With these qualities prominent, the person can obtain rewards for past, solid endeavors and for qualities of integrity and reliability. Time marches slowly under Saturnian progressions, so rewards come equally slowly, and perseverance and hard work are recognized. The person tends to garner resources and to invest in capital-guaranteed stock rather than to take risks. This is the right thing to do at this period in life. It is a time to stabilize and consolidate, to save money, to begin building worthwhile long-term projects, to invest in property and land, and to realize ambitions.

The danger with Saturn, if it is in natal difficult angles, is that one can act from purely selfish motives through fear or be selfishly treated by other people. What the person draws to himself is a result of his own attitudes. The world is often seen through dark glasses at this time. Hope comes at a premium. Astrologers can offset the gloom and doom by explaining that most people tend to see the dark side of the Moon under Saturn; it is not a peculiar fate particular to them. Just by knowing about life beyond can lighten the load. My example of the lady whose husband lost his job is a case in point.

Anything that has been prepared in slipshod fashion will be revealed. I vividly recall a very well-known client who came to me because his daughter had not told him about her engagement because she thought he wouldn't care; he was hardly ever home and was, at best, she said, a "part-time father," because he had enormous professional responsibilities. The situation took him completely by surprise and pulled him up short. He had assumed his family knew he was

working for them, but his ambitions had run away with him and his life was out of balance. Saturn always seeks to redress this under progressions or transiting aspects.

Because of pessimistic attitudes, clients can fail to grasp the advantages of the moment, to take necessary risks. Although self-discipline is required and shortcut methods don't work, that other quality Librans have to work so hard to achieve—balance in one's life—is what is required under Saturn. It is quite a difficult thing to maintain, which is another reason why time is necessary for situations to work out well.

Times may be hard and money in short supply, but it is a period to get one's head down and get on with it. Time does pass. This is also the cure for any emotional healing after broken relationships that have not stood the test of time or that were not realistic enough. One has more dealings with people in authority in one's job, in the government, or with teachers, surveyors, and real estate professionals. Anything to do with the land is emphasized, as well as events in the father's or grandfather's life. Any attitudinal problems toward people in authority are revealed at this time. Often people don't realize they have an "attitude" or that they tend to "fight" authority.

It sounds woeful, but Saturn's times will try to give you what you want, provided you are prepared to lay solid groundwork. It is easy to say that cheerful acceptance of what comes is the best way to handle events, but it is also the hardest thing to do. It is a time to realize that "that's the way life is" and we can't change it. We are not handpicked to suffer misfortune. It is the reality of our existence, and it is the same for everyone in the context of their particular destiny.

Saturn's function is to stabilize and help us establish structures, including our bodies, that are sound. Flaws and weaknesses are revealed so that we can work on them. Just reward and retribution and having one's feet on the ground are what Saturn is all about. Knowing what the program contains for their lives helps clients work

to achieve solid structures at this time. Examine the houses ruled by Saturn and the houses opposite to see where reality might need adjusting. Saturn aspects work more strongly after the age of sixty.

Health is more vulnerable when one is depressed, and colds, flu, rheumatism, arthritis, trouble with joints, and chronic illnesses that are hard to diagnose can emerge. Bones, teeth, aging processes, hardening of the arteries, circulatory troubles in general, gall bladder complaints, accidents through falling, spinal ailments, hearing loss, and nervous ailments due to vague and unfounded fears all come under Saturn. When transiting Saturn crosses the Ascendant into the first house, is an excellent time to go to the gym or embark on whatever exercise one enjoys, to get the physical body into shape for the next twenty-nine years of the Saturn cycle.

I have are numerous examples of clients' experiences under Saturn because people tend to visit astrologers at difficult times. They include being crushed by an agricultural machine and losing an arm, losing a job, gaining a much longed-for job promotion, a child dying of leukemia, a much loved only son being born after a long waiting period, deciding to study for a doctoral degree, inheriting a lucrative business, deciding to abandon contractual work and take up permanent employment, setting up a business, marriage, death, and bereavement.

Uranus Aspects to the Ascendant and Midheaven

"Expect the unexpected" is the catch phrase of any Uranian aspect. Uranus' function in the structure of the psyche is to free us from growth-inhibiting, rigid attitudes and situations that are stifling creativity and preventing our life force from flowing freely. If we knew what was in store for us, we would establish controls to prevent structures from falling apart or changing. Not even astrologers can accurately predict the effects of Uranus. And so it should be.

Sudden changes can occur in the way you define your individuality. One can cooperate with Uranus in that there can be a readiness at this time to break new ground. If you look deep inside yourself, you can appreciate that you are fed up with the same old routine in certain areas, because they have become dead and lifeless. It then becomes possible to appreciate that what is happening is helping you along the road to psychological freedom from ingrained behavior patterns and programming. Externally, you want to leave people and situations. Uranus gives the ability to respond quickly to changes that arise; the body feels as if there is heightened electricity flowing through it. It is possible to act in dynamic ways without worrying about the conventional approaches.

People can reappear in your life, new friends are made, and anything original, unusual, or Uranian such as computer businesses, musical undertakings, and astrological enterprises are favored at this time. Dramatic changes in goals or in the course of your life can occur, and rapid rewards come as a result of expressing originality and inventiveness. Often an entirely new set of circumstances, people, or situations, which were totally unforeseen, can enter your life.

Exactly the opposite conditions to those under Saturn's aspects apply to those under Uranus. Shortcuts and unique labor-saving, innovative methods will do well. If there is something you have been waiting to try out, a new invention or business approach, now is the time to "give it a go."

The negative expression of Uranian aspects incline one to become very selfish and ride roughshod over any opposition, expressing abrupt, autocratic behavior. There is a tendency to take the law into one's own hands in whatever area is denoted by the Aquarian house cusp and the house occupied by Uranus, where its influence has a stronger effect than the house cusp rulership. As usual, one must always look at the opposite houses, too. There can be dramatic domestic and relationship upsets due to the person feeling restless and wanting to break free of

confining restraints. Eccentric behavior patterns can lead to divorce, sudden loss of jobs, accidents, and death. All this can happen and then the positive changes can come before the progression has passed, if the person is willing to learn from experience.

Health can improve due to the feeling of dynamic energy, so the person may take action and exercise more. Acupuncture works very well at this time, as do some other alternative therapies, but the “go-go-go” tension can exhaust the nervous system and the body. Obscure psychological and nervous complaints can arise, as well as ailments involving the ankles and the circulatory system. Muscular cramps and heart arrhythmias are possibilities. Examine medications, even prescribed medications, for side effects causing such things as fibrillation.

My clients' experiences included a sudden decision to move house, being struck by lightning (and surviving), having chronic headaches alleviated with acupuncture, anaphylactic shock following sensitivity to a tetanus injection, very high temperature in a toddler, atrial fibrillation being cured by ablative surgery, loss of a job and being offered a much better one very suddenly, a light plane crash, being made head of a corporation, promotion in the scientific field, and composing computer music. One can be brought into contact with prominent people at this time. Two clients started their own computing and music companies and a third set up his own electrical business, which became highly successful with several suburban branches five years later.

Neptune Aspects to the Ascendant and Midheaven

Neptune's function in the unconscious is to help us subsume our own desires in an effort to cooperate with other people to work for the common good. Instead of helping us define our individuality, like Uranian aspects, Neptune's aspects can almost obliterate our sense of

separateness, which is why people tend to take drugs under Neptune. They desire these experiences to gain a sense of oneness.

Such experiences can be very dangerous if one doesn't have a clear sense of self in the first place, or if the progressed or transiting aspects are difficult. The fog becomes thicker, the way out harder to find. One feels very much like a sponge, taking in every little nuance and impression from one's surroundings. With the easy natal aspects, even if the progressed aspects are difficult, there is an ability to more correctly interpret these sense impressions, at least after the initial mist lifts.

On the plus side, this progressed aspect stimulates empathy and compassion when dealing with other people. It is a stimulus to artistic, idealistic ideas and the ability to put them into practice. Above all, Neptune progressions allow one to make sufficient adjustments to one's self-image, to find one's correct level in the world. I had a client who thought that she was terribly important in the life of her lover, who ran a business empire; but he didn't leave his wife and family for her as she had imagined he would, and as he had told her he would.

This is the ego-denying aspect of Neptune. Situations are often illusionary and intangible in their manifestation. As clients have said over and over again to me, “It was so hard to find out what was really going on.” The main difficulty seems to be that what you hold in your imagination is what you believe really exists, and that is why so many people become hooked on the wrong life course. It is as if Neptune is giving you what you want most of all in the world and seductively beckons you to undermine your integrity in some way to get it. What you want to believe, you will think is true. Then the whole thing collapses like a deck of cards. I generally advise clients to come from correct principles and examine motives very logically and carefully, because you can deceive yourself and others. You can also be deceived, emotionally and materially, at this time by plots and schemes and by other people in ways that affect the rest of your life.

Life-changing decisions are best made after the progression has passed, if this is possible, which it isn't very often.

Neptune can bring the most breathtaking rewards: Lotteries can be won and large sums of money inherited if Neptune rules the second or eighth houses and is natively well aspected. Long-cherished dreams can become reality; however, one can equally well lose a fortune because there is an inclination to speculate, inflate one's monetary expectations, and then be called upon to juggle one's finances. This can involve "megabucks" on the stock market. One client of mine was tempted, just before the October crash in 1987, to put his superannuation lump sum retirement money in high-risk, get-rich-quick stock. He rejected sound financial advice and took the risk. It was seductive. It became his limp sum, and he had to get another job after he had officially retired.

During the period of this progressed aspect, people can have strange but very beautiful experiences. In 1963 I visited Kathmandu, not long opened to the West and then a very different, unspoiled place from what it is now. Travel or living abroad is possible, as is gaining popularity by producing music, paintings, or public relations strategies. One can be called on to solve problems by subtle tactics or by carrying out very difficult negotiations involving strategic maneuvering. Some very "knotty" problems can need solving at this time, especially if there are aspects to the Midheaven. Clients have discovered their teenagers were on drugs, and one lost and found her son who had run away to a commune and he was sick and starving.

There is often a great desire to go to the country, get away from it all, and leave the rat race behind. Many do, leaving behind families and innumerable problems. If these aspects happen at midlife-crisis time, forty-two-year old men can elope with twenty-year-old blondes and believe the relationship is going to work. Very undisciplined behavior can manifest. If Neptune conjuncts the Ascendant, especially in puberty, it can be an extremely difficult time. One simply

doesn't know who one really is. Peter Sellers, the actor, had Neptune in the first house, and he said he never ever knew who he really was.

The following can become prominent in one's life at this time: films, photography, acting, involvement in the airline industry, radio-pharmaceuticals, drugs, chemicals, hospitals, institutions of many kinds, the oil industry, prisons, and any form of dancing.

Illnesses tend to emerge after an incubation period and can be chronic. If in doubt, get a medical checkup. Hypersensitivity such as allergies, reactions to drugs and chemicals, mental problems of all sorts, nervous diseases, buzzing in the ears or itchy skin, cancer, or wasting diseases may occur. Look particularly at the houses occupied and ruled by Neptune and those opposite. The midpoint of Saturn and Neptune is known as the sickness axis. If the ruler of the sixth house transits this point at the time of a Neptune progression, and if you are feeling unwell, get a checkup. Lethargy is the precursor to Neptunian complaints. Unknown, long-standing complaints can equally well be cured at this time as they manifest externally. Chronic fatigue syndrome is a classic Neptunian complaint.

My clients' experiences were very varied. They included learning to meditate and gain serenity, suicide after a bitter disappointment, hypnosis to successfully cure smoking, becoming a prominent choreographer, setting up a commune in the country (which later disintegrated), immense frustration in a musical career and having someone else chosen for the desired position, being offered drugs on the job, taking up social drugs on weekends, and deciding to become a pilot. One client discovered he had tuberculosis. He had been infected with it by his grandmother, whom he had gone overseas to visit years earlier.

Pluto Aspects to the Ascendant and Midheaven

These are not lighthearted times. Situations arise that force people to call upon their psychological and physical resources, to reveal strengths and abilities they didn't know they had in order to deal with

the crises. Self-discipline, leadership potential, and the ability to effectively meld a group together can emerge.

The end result, what Pluto progressions and transits are all about, is self-mastery and the regeneration of one's life. This is a tall order, but then the circumstances that arise are often of such proportions that they force people to muster all their resources. One discovers the strength of one's own character. Pluto is anything but wishy-washy.

Under Pluto progressions and transits, what one thinks is all-important because what one desires, one very often gets. Desiring evil or the wrong thing, just for oneself, releases all sorts of power from other people, a group, or the government, and these people can fight you at this time. One client claimed he had carried out work that actually he had subcontracted out. He later refused to pay these people, who sued him and he lost. As Pluto is connected with supreme good as well as the Mafia, one has the choice, for better or worse, for richer or poorer, in soul and spirit.

Phases of the life are brought to an end and are followed by new beginnings. Sometimes this means one's work situation or relationships are in tatters—the ashes phase of Pluto before the phoenix rises. This is the most difficult period, when one is in no man's land; something has ended but the new situation has not yet developed. It is a time to wait, almost airborne, before one has reached land and obtained new vision and regeneration. Glimpsing is a Pluto attribute. Glimpse what will emerge after the ashes phase is over—this is the first phase of renewal.

It is a time to be proactive for the common good. Power for power's sake can unleash aggressive forces against the person. Often the person is intense, dominating, fanatical, and powerful, and such qualities tend to isolate him from his fellows. The intensification can isolate the problem so that the person, as well as those around him, can see it. One man's bisexual affairs became common knowledge and his wife found out during this progression.

There can also be rewards for past endeavors, honors are bestowed, organizing group action for the common good can take place, improvement in one's prime relationship(s), making financial gains, understanding group needs, and gaining management skills and promotion. In women's charts, there can be an emphasis on the male principle, marriage, parenthood, life-and-death situations, civil wars, and the display of unusual personal influence for good or evil. Evil is a word one can use in connection with Pluto progressions; absolute power does corrupt absolutely.

If the progression is to the Midheaven and the natal chart suggests success and recognition, then this can be the time the individual comes to the fore and succeeds. He can become recognized as an expert in his field.

Anything hidden is Pluto's domain: mining, the nuclear industry, psychology and psychiatry, archeology, criminals, sewage and water resources, environmental industries, funerals and deaths, and midwives and birth. Pluto is connected with repetitive piecemeal work, assembly lines, and organized crime, so the individual may have connections with any of these occupations. It is advisable not to resort to underhanded manipulation under Pluto. It can backfire!

Health can be affected through cancer, bowel complaints, allergies, colitis, in vitro fertilization, complaints of the reproductive organs, HIV, AIDS, herpes, hepatitis, epidemics, and boils. Sometimes a deep-seated illness can be diagnosed. Psoriasis and skin complaints can appear. Autoimmune diseases like rheumatoid arthritis are Plutonic.

My clients' experiences included confrontational experiences with partners, some of which ended the business partnership and marriage altogether. A drive for power can surge in the person under these progressions, and clients in various situations have tried to control everyone and everything around them. If they have failed to take control, others have tried to control them. Many undertook psychotherapy as a means of understanding these surfacing drives. One client became head

of a department in the nuclear field, another head of a business concern, another became a politician, and yet another became a university lecturer in psychology. Another client sued two lesbian coworkers whom he believed secured his dismissal because he was a man. One woman became the second most powerful person in her company. Another client discovered her daughter was working as a prostitute in an overseas city to pay for her drug habit.

These experiences sound pretty heavy, and they are; but if you understand that Plutonic progressions are, like Saturnian ones, saying “It’s time,” it is easier because the period has meaning. It’s time to relinquish, psychologically anyway, fundamental attitudes, which in real terms translates as people and situations in your life that are preventing you from moving on. This is to allow the new visions and a new perspective to arise. The loss doesn’t have to be lamented. If you have been used to relating to people in a possessive manner, you may find you still have the relationships, but you no longer need to possess people; you can be fundamentally more secure, and therefore more detached, in your approach. This is the ultimate gift of a Plutonic progression—a detached perspective; and if you look closely, at the end of the period, you will find you have made a significant psychological shift, the process of which you were not aware.

Ascendant/Midheaven Aspecting Each Other

These Ascendant/Midheaven aspects to each other—either progressed to natal or progressed to progressed—will occur with other progressed aspects which, read in combination, will give you a better indication of which way things will work out in terms of significant events and their meaning for your clients. I had my progressed Ascendant trining my natal Midheaven when I started studying astrology. My Midheaven is ruled by the Sun.

Progressions between these two important points, I have found (and I stress that this is my opinion only as more research needs to be

done) generally appear to support the myth of the total chart. They seem to occur at very significant times in the life. For instance, if the progressed Ascendant or Midheaven are aspecting each other and, at the same time, natal Pluto opposes Venus, then this Venus/Pluto link could be strongly connected with the overall purpose of that person’s life. The message and life theme might be to look at possessiveness and attitudes toward loss, and this could be one of the fundamental lessons of that person’s life—it might be *the* fundamental theme.

When you get the two vital angles of the chart making progressed aspects to each other natively or by progression, look at the natal chart to see if you can understand its core meaning or theme, which usually will be repeated in several areas.

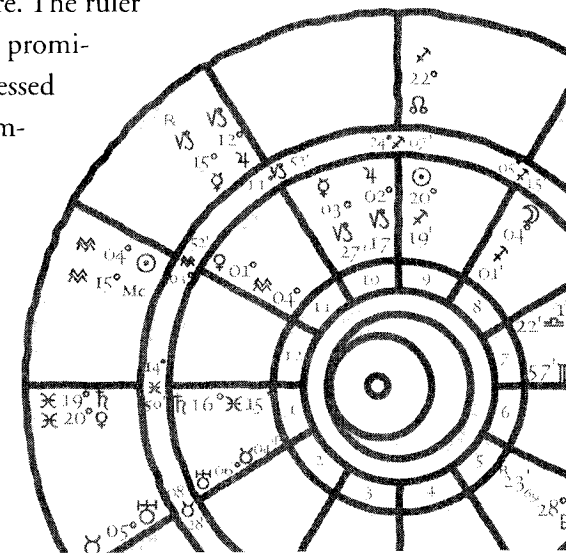
The next chapter delineates combinations of planets in progression in a fairly general way. The natal chart, aspects, houses, and the houses opposite that contain progressed planets, and that the progressed planets rule natively, will be the areas of most activity. Remember that the houses in which the progressed planets are located natively are the house areas of prime importance, followed by the house cusps that these planets rule.

Planetary Progressions— The Inner Planets

Sun Progressed Aspects

If the Sun makes a progressed aspect in the chart, that year will always be a memorable one for the person because the Sun represents our core vitality. It is the engine running the vehicle. It will also bring to prominence the principles of the planet making the aspect to the Sun, whether this aspect is easy or difficult. No really important event or psychological maturing takes place unless the Sun is involved in the progression.

I stress the word *important* here. The ruler of the chart, the Sun ruler, or a prominent planet can make progressed aspects and that year will be memorable, but the Sun's progressed years are usually remembered as dramatic and eventful years. It is a time when you have more energy, enabling you



to get things done; or it is a time when you realize how important energy is to accomplish what you want. Accomplishment in real terms brings an increase in self-esteem. With the trines and sextiles, it is easier to keep the ego in balance. With the more difficult aspects, there are usually adjustments to be made in the way you express yourself to others. If there are progressed squares, you can go after what you want like a bull in a china shop with a great deal of arrogance, or, if the Sun is in difficult squares natally, or the progressed aspect is to Neptune or Venus, you may passively wait for everything to land in your lap.

As in natal aspects, applying aspects moving toward the conjunction have a much stronger effect than separating aspects, but often there can be an incident right at the end of the contact. The contact lasts approximately two years, 1° applying to exactitude and 1° separating.

Even without astrology or psychotherapy, not everyone sees, or wants to see, the psychological changes that the events bring, and everyone has their own destiny to fulfill. But not everyone wants to take the psychotherapeutic approach. I recommend you find out what your client really wants.

With progressed Sun aspects, an opportunity occurs to develop self-esteem through expressing the talents and energies denoted by the planet receiving the aspect. For instance, progressed Sun to natal Mars provides a chance to develop initiative and assertiveness and to achieve accomplishments according to one's talents, because this is an energetic combination. It is a good time to get fit no matter where Mars and the Sun are in the natal chart. You feel you want to use the energy physically.

When the progressed Sun makes aspects, the qualities peculiar to the Sun sign can be expanded. Nurturing, caring, running a business, or establishing a home may become important if the natal Sun is in Cancer. Traveling, learning, or reconnecting with meaning of life may become important if the Sun is in Sagittarius.

The house areas where one has these developmental opportunities depends on where these planets are placed natally and the house cusps Leo and Aries/Scorpio, which they rule in the case of Sun/Mars. If Mars is in, or rules, the ninth house, opportunities could be in learning, travel, or formulating a life philosophy. The Sun's house will also come into the picture. If the natal Sun is in the second house, this progressed connection to Mars could result in your values changing, which affects your self-esteem and how you value yourself and other people. You could take sabbatical leave if you are an academic or make money in some way through publishing. The progressed house of the Sun especially, if it has changed from the natal house, also comes into the picture.

The success of these years, and the likelihood of the person finding the going relatively easy or quite difficult, depends on the progressed aspect and on the natal aspects governing both the Sun and Mars. If the Sun is poorly placed with, say, a square aspect to Neptune natally, in order to make the most of the energy of Mars in the progressed aspect the person will have to develop an exercise regime that will overcome Neptunian inertia. Neptune's influence inclines you to "just lie in bed in the morning a little longer." This is where an astrologer can make a difference. If you know about Neptunian seductiveness beforehand and know this Sun/Mars progression is a window of opportunity, you can encourage your client to get up and go. The progressed energy will move the person along. This is how you should read a progressed chart.

If the natal aspect between the Sun and Mars is a difficult one, the person will have trouble responding harmoniously. However, the Sun's involvement always implies that a conscious effort of will will make a big difference and strengthen the ego function in the psyche. One has a choice: to reemphasize the original difficult aspect between the Sun and Mars, or to learn all about seeing the other person's point of view and stop firing from the hip!

If the person is willing to learn, then the aggression appears first and the person will probably go overboard. That will cause immense repercussions, forcing him to pull back and learn. “If I act like that, this will happen.” Observing his own behavior and responding to it will change him psychologically, and, by the end of the two years, the person will have learned to handle the combination Sun/Mars energy in a much more constructive fashion. If the progressed aspect is an easy one and the natal aspect is hard, the chance to really understand how one operates is even greater.

You always need other people to interact with if you are to see your behavior clearly. A good axiom to remember is that in observing behavior, you reenact the original tension of the natal square once, twice, three times, or more. Then suddenly you “glimpse” how the ego is involved and how the anger and impatience occur, and pull back. Glimpsing is a word I use advisedly here. It *is* glimpsing initially. It may take fifty times, and on the fifty-first time there’s recognition of one’s behavior. With any luck, you will be able to observe frequently played “games” or patterns of behavior. Then the unconscious starts to change and the behavior is modified. I recommend a marvelous book to explain this fully: Edward C. Whitmont’s *The Symbolic Quest*.

After a natal square between planets, there comes the progressed trine of 120°. Say you have Mars at 17° Leo and the Sun at 21° Scorpio. By solar arc, at about twenty-six years (you have to calculate exactly depending on the time of birth) the progressed Sun comes to 17° Sagittarius, trining the natal Mars. At the same time, using converse directions, the regressed Mars will be at 21° Cancer, trining the natal Sun. This provides a really good opportunity to see exactly how you express that natal Sun/Mars. When you get progressed forward and converse directions agreeing so dramatically like that, the combination of planets is really emphasized for the whole of the progressed period.

The time of the progressed years will bring heightened tension, but also the ability to direct it constructively.

The progressed Sun, then, produces increased willpower, vitality, and determination to accomplish, all of which dramatically improve self-esteem and constructive expression of a balanced ego. Events in the life expand your horizons and allow you to take in more of the world.

Any progression by or to the Sun is an opportunity to increase personal integrity, to act according to right principles, and to balance the imbalances of our core character. If the Sun is in difficult natal aspects, we can spend too much time trying to solve peripheral problems that appear as central issues. A progressed Sun is a chance to examine this tendency.

Natally, a strongly placed Sun denotes great physical and emotional vitality and allows the person, who is fortunate to have it, to work tirelessly toward manifesting what he wants in life. This can be purely for himself or include the good of the world as well. We notice solar people because of this power they emanate. They make an impact on us because they strongly express their identities. They are involved in many activities and many people’s lives. This is what we should strive to express in solar progressions according to our talents and values. Negatively expressed, we can become arrogant, self-centered, and boastful, and can overestimate our own importance.

Sun-Moon Progressed Aspects

This guide applies to progressed Sun to natal Moon aspects only. As explained, the complete natal chart must be taken into consideration when delineating.

Aspects formed while the Sun is progressing from a natal conjunction with the Moon toward the opposition progressed aspect denote external events affecting the active side of life. When the progressed Sun is moving from the opposition phase toward the conjunction, it affects the assimilative, psychological experiences of the individual.

The person is inclined to be more introverted and to put previously gained wisdom into practice, using life experiences to make decisions.

The easy aspects, often the inconjunct and semisextile, too, encourage the desire to work for success; while in the introverted phase, from opposition to conjunction, there can be rewards for previous work and effort. The difficult progressed aspects indicate stress when endeavors are put to the test to see if they are on a sound practical basis.

As the Sun-Moon is yang-yin, male-female, husband-wife, and conscious-unconscious, these progressed aspects test our ability to create inner harmony in areas such as going after what you want to do. It tests whether your emotions agree with your ambitions. It is no good working for something you want unless you feel like doing it. That's like going into a race with a handicap. For success, you need emotional backing. Desires and feelings must work together and this aspect tests whether they are working together. Integration is the key-word of this combination.

The progressed opposition is particularly interesting. This aspect between the Sun and Moon provides an opportunity to be totally aware of the games you play in life. You get a chance to see the programming you have established as a child when you go after what you want. Two Cancer clients saw how they move sideways, like their mythical symbol, the crab. They didn't act in direct fashion when they went after what they wanted, but carried out subtle (sideways) maneuvers to gain their desired results. This action didn't matter, but they became aware if it, they could see it. The opposition is an aspect of awareness and enlightenment.

It's a time to marry, to set up a business, to start anything new (if the aspect is the conjunction), or to organize important changes in the life. The sextile is a stimulus to mental accomplishment. Easy aspects attract goodwill because you can be integrated and therefore

benevolent and generous yourself. It can indicate a very happy home life during this period.

The difficulties arise from a lack of internal harmony. For example, you get married but you are not sure if you love the person. There is a peculiar internal tension that makes for a lack of consistency in your behavior, and this attracts a similar response from other people, a "push-me-pull-you" effect. You may misjudge the right time to start activities. There's a tendency to attract the wrong sort of people into one's life, so troubles with relationships of all kinds are likely. It can be a time of emotional frustration. It is a time when you cannot get people to cooperate with you in your endeavors. The Moon has to do with public popularity, so this can be positive or negative, depending on the aspect. You can have excellent health as many of your initiatives work out well; however, worry caused by emotional upsets may also have a great influence on the health. Women especially need to watch their health if the progressed Sun conjuncts their natal Moon.

Clients' experiences are too varied and too numerous to list in detail. They include marriage, divorce, death, starting enterprises, becoming very sick and getting better, climbing mountains, travel, publishing, making money, births, obtaining prominent positions, having a contented home life, and starting school.

Sun-Mercury Progressed Aspects

This combination stimulates thinking in whatever terms are indicated by the natal chart. This indicates a period governed by sound common sense and often occurs when there are changes in the life demanding that the person be thoroughly adaptable. The period can bring understanding, gains in knowledge, travel, communication, and achieving distinction in scholastic or literary areas, as well as connections with the computer industry, journalism, or working in a Mercurial occupation such as transport. There's a requirement to cope with many details at this time and to pay attention to things like

tax returns, claims for benefits, the small print in insurance policies, and so on.

More than with any other planet, progressions involving Mercury depend on its natal aspects, as Mercury takes its “coloring” from its connections. It is generally a very active period, so difficult aspects indicate the progressed period could be a time of nervous tension and frustration. The person can be very restless and rush about achieving very little. If this happens, learning how to calm down, meditate, and become more tranquil may become a necessity. There is a strong desire to communicate, and the success of this depends on natal aspects. For some, it indicates public speaking.

The affairs of brothers, sisters, and children in general take on more prominence. It can also bring prosperity. Any deficiency in proper communication can bring trouble in the form of malicious gossip, a slump in prestige, or setbacks to one’s career caused by a lack of sound common sense or adaptability. For example, changes can occur that are beyond one’s control, and which one may not like. Promotion may go over one’s head, as happened to a client of mine.

Several clients had to give up permanent employment at this time, and some changed to contract work. One client started a country newspaper. Children marry, grandchildren are born, and people move house and write books and articles under these progressions.

Sun-Venus Progressed Aspects

This is a thoroughly enjoyable two years for most people. The Sun-Venus connection stimulates warm emotions and feelings, expands artistic talents and social affairs, and brings opportunities for advancement in such areas. The person’s need to have harmony in his life, and willingness to compromise, ensure that like-minded people enter his life and support him in his endeavors.

Marriage or becoming attached in some way can occur, as can the birth of children, the setting up of artistic (in all its forms) busi-

nesses, or the realization of the “heart’s desire.” Influential people support you, and friends desire your company, further stimulating feelings of calm contentment.

If your marriage has been under stress, it may dissolve in order to reintroduce harmony into your life. Death may occur after a painful illness of loved ones or the person himself. This will be demonstrated by other progressed aspects.

If the Sun or Venus have difficult natal aspects or the progression is a semisquare, there can be self-indulgence, laziness, weight gain, and loss of opportunities. A peace-at-any-price attitude can bring trouble, separation, and possessiveness if Pluto is involved natively with Venus, or lack of self-assertion if Venus is in a difficult natal aspect with Mars. Actions can be taken for the sake of external appearances with no true depth or intrinsic worth. The person may, for instance, spend a fortune on clothes at the expense of life’s necessities. It is often a time when weight is gained very easily if one overeats or eats the wrong foods. Watch the kidneys, lower back, and gall bladder.

As always, pay attention to the houses involved, the progressed Sun’s house, Venus’ house if it has changed, and the houses opposite.

Clients’ experiences include marriage, beginning a musical career, births, deaths, divorces, opening a jewelry store, learning astrology, buying a house, and winning a scholarship.

Sun-Mars Progressed Aspects

This is an excellent time for initiating projects such as starting your own business. It is not a time for cooperative ventures so much as a time to follow through on your own initiatives. You need to identify with whatever you are doing and to use vigorous, independent action—mental activity, if air signs are prominent. If you normally lack assertion and energy, now is the time to take the plunge and take a risk or two in your endeavors. It is not a time to put your feet up and take it easy, nor will you feel like doing so.

It is an important two years during which the qualities and endeavors of the Sun sign can be more fully expressed. Taurus can build—a business, home, or stability; and Gemini can bring joy to others through gathering and disseminating information, and so on.

Marriage is a possibility, especially for women. Sons and grandsons can be born, and travel is often undertaken because it requires physical energy. As mentioned previously, with this progression one needs constructive direction and planning in order to make the most of the period. It is a period when you want to get things done. It can also show you what you are most interested in doing or accomplishing, because that particular area will be energized to move things along.

Poorly used, there can be aggressiveness, inflammation, broken bones, accidents, fights, separations, losses as a result of carelessness and overextension of resources (physical, mental, and monetary), divorce, the breakup of the home, heart trouble, and death. Women with this progression can have trouble with the men in their lives.

Clients' experiences include most of the above, a plane and motor-bike crash, travel around Australia (it is a time when you can more readily put up with physical discomfort and living roughly), being chosen for a hockey team, and taking up karate. One client, with Neptune heavily involved, endured chronic fatigue syndrome, and another client, a woman, joined the armed forces.

Sun-Jupiter Progressed Aspects

Because Jupiter acts like a mini-Sun, these progressions generate great activity, which can manifest mentally and/or physically. While Mars bolsters the Sun and one can use its assertive abilities to defend one's ego, Jupiter progressions represent a time to express the qualities denoted by the Sun sign more fully, and to take in more of the world in order to do this. One is energized to reach out and extend one's sphere of influence, so the physical and mental health is usually good. Profligacy and overextension of one's capacities and one's own impor-

tance is a danger under Jupiter transits and progressions and can bring strong reactions from other people. Arrogance and domineering behavior can put others off, and tactlessness can be a problem; but generally the person is magnanimous and generous at this time.

During this whole two-year period, there is a fine optimistic quality. This positive outlook provides confidence for the ego to take risks and extend itself in either the religious, intellectual, sporting, or material world in order to gain experience. This can bring undue restlessness if the person wants to take in more of the world and extend his sphere of influence, but is unable to do so to the extent he wants and is blocked in some way. It is often the case under a Jupiter progression that "one's eyes are bigger than one's stomach."

An astrologer can be useful in advising the client to take on the extra responsibility, or take in the experience, but to use available resources intelligently. Jupiter is concerned with the "getting of wisdom," too. Be wise concerning investments at this time. At the end of this period, there can be immense pride in accomplishments which will long be remembered.

At this time you can gain honors, scholarships, or public recognition and realize some long-held ambitions. People of prominence, or those who can help you, are drawn to you by your optimism and confidence. There can be promotion, financial gain, and increased social approval—Jupiter is our social "glue."

Watch the liver, in particular, at this time. Gaining weight is often a problem, and heart trouble and hip, back, and blood pressure problems are complaints that may arise. There is a tendency to self-indulge in many areas, particularly food and drink. This is why Saturn qualities are useful pitted against Jupiter, as a balance.

Clients have had a very wide range of experiences, as one would expect. One I have often noticed is that young people, who really need to leave home because their parents are not of future importance as a strong influence, do so under easy Sun/Jupiter aspects. It is as if Jupiter

gives them the confidence to leave an unsuitable home background or one they have outgrown. It is a time to do those things that you know are right for you and use that little extra confidence.

Sun-Saturn Progressed Aspects

These are not always hard times, but times of much greater responsibility that call on qualities of personal integrity, commitment, and self-reliance. It is a time when you can depend on “seeing straight” and not being fooled by what is going on in your life. Steady gains can be made as a result of hard work and sticking to the rules. If short cuts have been taken in the past, this is the period in which the cracks that resulted will reveal themselves.

Saturn progressions represent boundaries. You can learn at this time what needs structure in your life and where your limitations lie, and accept them. Older colleagues and friends can be of help, and sound advice from those in authority is very useful. Previous experience can be used as a guideline and can be relied on.

You can utilize these aspects to sort out your values. You can examine what is right and wrong for you, what your morals are, and how your conscience has developed, or needs developing. It is a testing time when the word *duty* can have new meaning with regard to parents or those in authority and, of course, in the job area, because it's a Saturn progression. What happens during this period generally steadies the character because the period does bring responsibilities.

The danger is that you can become too rigid, repressed, and inhibited. There's not much to laugh about as one finds out the limitations on the freedom of the will (the antithesis of Mars and Jupiter progressions). It is a time when nearly everyone feels alone, cut off from other people, and has no sense of real belonging. It's a help to point out to clients that these are normal Saturnian feelings. This is because Saturn tends to make us aware of our differences. It is the structure that defines our boundaries. Without its influence, the energies of the

three outer planets would flood into the unconscious before you had defined and strengthened your own ego, which can have disastrous consequences.

These progressions provide a time to strengthen the ego slowly through quite a different process from that provided by Jupiter, because Saturn's concerns are objective reality. Saturn takes time! This is why, at the end of their lives, strongly Saturnian people can often look back on very real accomplishments, but in their early lives feel frustration and weakness when they compared themselves with others.

If you haven't laid proper groundwork for the structures in your life, they can fall apart during this period, which is a way of bringing home responsibilities. “The reward of patience is patience.” This is not my quotation, but it's a good axiom for Saturn. No one wants to keep on keeping on, but if you do, and advise your clients to do so, you can have the rewards of my example client. It can be the start of a new, long-term enterprise, such as a marriage or a business that really succeeds. Keeping a balance (Saturn is exalted in Libra) is the trick. Too much caution and inhibition kills enthusiasm and inclines you to let good opportunities slip by, but having your feet on the ground and the right checks and balances in place can do wonders for your life. My advice to clients is keep busy, exercise to increase the opiates (joy bringers) in the brain, and use the time to develop self-discipline and application. One is inclined to be very selfish at this time because the energy levels are low, so be aware of this Saturnian characteristic.

Health, of course, is vulnerable when the *joie de vivre* in life is in short supply. Problems can arise with arthritis, bones, cartilage, teeth, poor circulation, and chronic tumors and accidents, and colds are likely to occur. The level of immunity is low (advise elderly clients to get flu shots). It's a time to have anything checked that could become chronic, such as a persistent cough or vague pain.

My clients' experiences range from tales of woe to the supreme achievements I have mentioned previously. Women with progressed Saturn aspects often find it affects them through their fathers, husbands, and men in their lives. This can happen to men, too, more so when they are young. Circumstances surrounding property and career or job, in particular, may change or be restructured and consolidated. Examine the Capricorn and Aquarius houses, the house Saturn occupies natively, and the conditions in the opposing houses for likely action.

Sun-Uranus Progressed Aspects

It's time to dare to be different, to take that leap you have always been too fearful to take, to have a go at something you have always wanted to try. If you use this progression as a liberating influence, you are less likely to experience the disruptive side of Uranus. There is dynamic energy available and this sometimes produces spectacular results. I enjoyed the period of transiting Uranus conjunct my natal Sun more than any other time in my life.

This aspect stimulates the creative talents and the desire to experience new aspects of life, so travel, put yourself in unusual surroundings, or join a group that has similar interests or is studying something novel. There can be connections with large corporations or scientific bodies during this progression. You may increase your range of knowledge and experience. There is confidence, enthusiasm, personal magnetism, and, if the natal chart indicates it, possibilities of dynamic leadership. All this can radically change your outlook on life and, therefore, your values and beliefs. There can be a repolarization and refocusing of your life on many fronts by the end of the period. People you once knew can return to your life. There is a strong desire for unique self-expression.

This is a difficult period for people wedded to the status quo and strict life routines. The upsetting side of this progression can bring

accidents, turmoil, sudden and severe setbacks, and enmity with friends and family. This is because the electric dynamism is there, but you are suppressing it. Other people feel it as excitability and irritability. You can behave autocratically, and children, especially, can be extremely rebellious and perverse. Gearing them into the positive can produce a really creative and exciting time. Any unusual musical talent should be encouraged. Good drummers, for example, are Uranian.

Wild schemes and foolhardy relationships can also be the order of the day, with many pieces to pick up during and after the period. There can be separations, divorce, leaving the home and family, or even leaving the country. I have two charts of migrant workers seeking work in another country to gain financial freedom from poverty. Ties no longer strong and viable are broken, and a new chapter in the life can begin. Under this progression, how you go about taking action is as important as what you do. You can go after the freedom, but it isn't necessary to leave a trail of disruption and resentment, or huge financial losses because your plans were not well prepared. Clients very often go through the bad times before they gain an awareness of their unique self-expression and their freedom from former restrictions. Using freedom wisely is a very difficult thing to do.

Healthwise, the nerves are strung out even under the easy aspects. Heart and breathing rhythms can be irregular. I had one client who was so tense that he was admitted while at work as an emergency to hospital after he had several apparent fits. He was wired up to high-tech medical machines, and several electrocardiograms were also taken, but nothing other than stress was diagnosed—a very Uranian incident. He had kept plodding along in his sedentary job when Uranus was begging to be utilized. When he recovered his confidence, he studied astronomy and joined an amateur radio group. Another client took up flying, and yet another, gliding. Acupuncture is an excellent treatment at this time.

This progression tends to work early and suddenly; it is no good trying to outguess future events. Examine the Aquarian house cusp and the natal placement of Uranus and its aspects, together with the Sun's aspects and houses, and ask your clients where they feel their creativity lies. What undeveloped talents lie waiting for the light of day? How would they like to be self-indulgent? Sometimes the talents are so tucked away that clients can't even guess or know what they want to do. It is the astrologer's job to draw this out well before the exact aspect is due.

Sun-Neptune Progressed Aspects

You couldn't have a more different feeling under this progressed aspect compared with the Uranian one. Neptune tends to dissipate the Sun's energies, so there can be listlessness and fatigue. You can become very vulnerable to external moods and impressions because there is an awareness of, and a great sensitivity to, other people and how they intuitively feel. Unless you can interpret this new understanding correctly, you can become absorbed into the other person or situation and easily misinterpret what you think you understand. It is a time to put facts before feelings and to try to interpret them logically. Relying on emotions and feelings to explain what you feel now can lead to weakness and lack of assertiveness, and can even result in someone taking over the running of your life. Beware of giving yourself negative mental messages that undermine your confidence.

This new sensitivity can lead to great muddles and confusion in your life or to an almost psychic understanding of people's needs. This engenders concern to help others and to put their needs before your own. This is all very well as long as they deserve your help and you are reading the situation correctly, which is improbable under a Neptunian progression. Others may take advantage of you at this time, being subtly aware of your inability to think clearly and make sound judgments.

There is very often a tendency to believe what you want to believe, and some of my clients' stories are quite hair-raising. One man's excuse for joining a commune and leaving his wife and teenage children was that he believed nuclear war was about to break out and that he would be the only one in the country growing food to help his family survive. Another man (very often it is men who are most affected because this progression brings emotions men are less likely to have felt previously) went off with a woman twenty-five years his junior. It didn't work out, and at the end of the progression he had no wife and no children and had lost the large home he had once part-owned.

The other side of Neptune is a clear-sighted perception of what is really going on in a confusing situation. It is exactly the opposite of the above, but it is hard to know whether you are fooling yourself by believing one or the other (only that Saturnian thing, time, will let you know this). If it is at all possible, I advise clients not to change their lives drastically, in a way that can't be undone, so that they don't wake up to that cold, unalterable, Monday-morning feeling, unable to recoup their losses.

There can be the realization of some cherished ambition or dream, but, funnily enough, not in the way you expect it to occur. There can be the ability to bring down to earth and realize practical possibilities for creative ideas that you have been mulling around for years. A choreographer client had his most brilliant ideas, which were actually staged, during this progression. There can be big financial gains or equally drastic losses. Another client lost all his superannuation in the October 1987 crash and had to go back to work. It is as if the unconscious mind is wide open at this time, letting in all impressions without discrimination. *Discrimination* is the necessary keyword to apply to your life during this period. Sorting out information from this heightened sensitivity and intuitive knowledge is the big dilemma.

Some people even have foreknowledge of phone calls, letters, and events. I have witnessed this.

Because the ego is not feeling strong, or has been redirected, there can be renunciation. Sometimes it is enforced—as in the case of my client's superannuation lump sum. It can also be long-held principles, cherished dreams, ties with loved ones, and apparently stable situations that are discarded. Neptune is ego-denying and will wrinkle out false pride and arrogance at this time.

Neptune's influence is seductive; it beckons us to wish on a star and believe that our illusions and obsessions are real. This leads to irresponsible behavior and feelings of exaltation (religious experiences and an attitude of "I am saved and above the common lot" can occur). Neptune progressions make us demand perfection, so they test our adjustment to life as a whole and our realistic place in it. At the beginning of the progression, there is often a raising of the ego to new heights, then, at the end of the period, our self-esteem can be brought crashing down through bad judgment and lack of integrity. Of all the planets, Neptune's influence is, in many ways, the hardest to experience.

Before the period begins, it is important to get fit. Sometimes there is hospitalization, a chronic complaint can be revealed, and mental problems occur due to the influx of impressions that destabilize the mind. If you feel tired at this time, which you invariably will, rest and recuperate. It is not a time to push yourself to your limits. It is a period during which you need to use sound practical common sense and not to be lured into false schemes. A client of mine, with degenerative cartilage disease, was even persuaded to adopt an aerobics keep-fit scheme, which accelerated her complaint.

Clients' experiences include joining Community Aid Abroad and going to Africa, and marrying an artist because of his potential, not because the lady really loved him. His potential didn't materialize, and, still under this progression, my client divorced him. One client

found her third marriage was to her third alcoholic husband, though he apparently wasn't an alcoholic when she married him. Other experiences included getting chronic fatigue syndrome, being dismissed from work through disclosure of a character weakness (the client had taken advantage of others to promote his own interests), going to acting school, and winning a music scholarship. Another client gambled and lost all his savings. Another published a book of poetry and it won a prize. Many clients traveled (Neptune signifies boundless space) at this time to India, South America, and Antarctica.

Sun-Pluto Progressed Aspects

Throughout its two-year duration, this progressed aspect tends to deepen your awareness of life through very intense experiences. You are just not allowed to stay on the surface, enjoying life's superficial aspects. You are made to get involved at a very deep level with whatever you are doing. Although Pluto is very small—it was recently defined by astronomers as the first asteroid of the Kuyper Belt as well as the outermost planet of our solar system—its effects are felt very powerfully. You can, in fact, go after power for power's sake at this time, but there are usually repercussions if the ambitions are purely selfish. You may display ruthlessness toward others because of this feeling of power within yourself. You may also have to deal with a situation that has broken down, such as a marriage or other relationships, or a job loss or difficult situation at work.

There can be power struggles—the love of power or the power of love—depending on which areas of your life are involved. Fundamental changes occur in your consciousness that cannot be ignored. They cause you to transform your character and evolve. One dictionary definition of the word *evolve* defines Pluto's action beautifully—"to develop gradually."

The influence of this progression, like that of Neptune, is immensely subtle and leads to effective regeneration of all that the Sun

represents. At the end of the period, it is not unusual for people to recognize that they are totally different from the people they once were, but not to be aware of the process or how it happened. It happens upon you rather than by you. On the way to achieving this, something is usually destroyed, and it is better if you can use the heightened intuitive awareness you will have at this time to readjust and adapt constantly. What is destroyed can be external, such as a relationship, but it is a reflection of what is transforming and changing within you. Taking control is ridiculous when dealing with Plutonic energies. It is impossible, but many people attempt it, using power and manipulation or oppressive tactics toward other people. At the bottom of this coercion lies a basic insecurity which this progression will allay by providing strength and power to the ego.

The easier aspects lighten the load and the intensity, and the more difficult aspects tend to lead to obsessive-compulsive behavior.

The dynamic regenerative force of this period usually initiates a fresh phase in the life, imbuing one with the power to regenerate oneself dynamically, and/or lead a group and weld it into a cohesive whole and imbue it with a singleness of purpose for the good of all. Or you can sink to the other end of the Plutonic scale and organize a drug ring, encourage others to violence and aggression, or simply try to force your will on other people. As I mentioned before, your attitude under a Pluto progression is all-important. Conditions you envisage mentally or emotionally invariably become reality. Pluto progressions and transits are connected with desire. What you desire is important in terms of your future development. Astrologers can encourage their clients to aim for worthy goals. Discrimination needs to be exercised strongly just as it does in Neptunian progressions. Great attainment is possible under Plutonic progressions.

An event can occur that brings psychological and/or physical isolation. This can involve a birth, death, travel, sickness, or being sacked

from a job or marriage (mostly in women's lives). Life feels fated at this time, and bonds formed with others feel the force of destiny.

All this happens in accordance with Pluto's function, which is to eliminate old thoughts and patterns of behavior that are impeding development and maturity; but you have to become aware of these patterns before you can change them. It is the process of becoming aware that leads to a transformation of yourself and the way you function in life simply because the old methods won't work any more.

This is the breakdown component of Pluto. Old ways of operating cause so many problems that you are forced to examine situations and the part you play in them. It is comforting for clients to know that this *is* the way forward, that this is how we become aware of how we operate, because it can be quite a painful process as one is exposed, warts and all, at times.

Obsessive-compulsive behavior can become a problem and occasionally need medical attention. Other afflictions include paranoia, mental breakdowns, cancer, skin disorders, hay fever and allergies, and trouble with the reproductive organs. Sexual diseases and problems, mental or physical, that are the result of long-standing conditions can become active. There can be violence inflicted on the person—such as domestic violence—and the immune system is precarious during this period. One of my clients was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis and another with rheumatoid arthritis. Yet another client had a teenage shingles complaint reactivate after fifteen years, this time in the brain.

Some of my clients' experiences included intense battles of will in the workplace, births, deaths, marriages, getting divorced and obtaining a new job in a nuclear power plant, promotion to head of a corporation after a struggle of wills, forming an innovative management strategy and implementing it in a large company, being jailed, becoming infected with HIV, attempting to influence a person making a will

resulting in very powerful complications in the family, and joining a Masonic lodge after a long dispute about it with his wife.

The Moon's Progressed Aspects

The Moon in the chart represents the psychological female within us all and, as such, symbolizes moods, feelings, intuitive understanding, sympathy, nurturing instincts, and all the thousands of subtle, non-verbal, emotional impressions that come to us from our surroundings and other people. It symbolizes emotional intelligence, the topic of several recent books.

The reflective nature of the Moon is developed in infancy—our self-image is formed through how our mother responds to us when we are a tiny infant. The child who never smiles doesn't readily draw a smile from mother. Mother may have nothing to smile about in her life so she doesn't readily smile at you. These early emotional habit patterns are extremely difficult to change later on in life as they are connected with spontaneous reactions and past conditioning. How we feel about ourselves and the kind of emotional patterns of expression with which we feel most comfortable have a great impact on our well-being and happiness.

Inner emotional harmony is reflected in our behavior toward the public and other people generally. Their feedback revises our self-image, so there is a constant cycle going on. A destructive self-image can be demonstrated in behavior that upsets others because our emotional response to them is inappropriate; or we take things the wrong way; we dramatize family and emotional situations because we are not emotionally mature.

These days, more women have developed their assertiveness, their willpower, and their ambitions and readily express their needs. In other words, they have developed the masculine Sun side of their nature. Men are coming to understand that expressing their needs and developing their emotional/feeling nature is just as necessary for them and is important if they are to become fully rounded people.

The Moon's natal sign shows how we instinctively react in overly emotional and stressful situations. Water sign Moons retreat, cry, or maybe cook; earth Moons endure, but clean the house or do the gardening; air Moons intellectualize and talk incessantly about the situation; and fire Moons get angry, shout, and throw things about. All action is expressed to get the emotions out. These reactions are all modes of behavior designed to make us feel emotionally comfortable again, so the Moon's sign indicates what we need to express to feel good about ourselves. Its natal aspects indicate whether this is easy or tough for us to achieve.

The progressed Moon's function is to act as a timer to the progressed chart events. An astrologer has to combine this with the transit triggers. Generally, the progressed Moon's aspects can be given a period of around two months to apply and separate from a natal planetary aspect (one month applying and one month separating). The conjunctions are the strongest, then the oppositions, followed by the square aspects. Easier aspects denote good feelings. The quincunx can be quite stressful and cause you to re-orientate certain feelings.

As the progressed Moon travels through the natal houses, it draws your attention to the affairs of that house. The following delineations are fairly general, but, hopefully, useful.

FIRST HOUSE: A time to feel more optimistic and confident of what you want to do and where you want to go. You attract people and situations to you. There's a feeling of having eliminated a lot of emotional refuse while the Moon was traversing the twelfth house, so there can be a feeling of being liberated for the period of this progression, which lasts around two to two-and-a-half years. Sometimes treatment for the body is necessary.

SECOND HOUSE: There's a focus on work and how you earn money. Values and what you want money for can be a concern, together with emotional security and how you achieve this. The extent to which your self-esteem is related to your income or

what kind of home you own, or the quality of your style of life, can become a psychological issue for you. Laying foundations for obtaining whatever types of things make you feel secure occupies the thoughts and can be organized at this time.

THIRD HOUSE: Your daily environment is important. Your focus is on how you communicate, travel about locally, and interact with neighbors or people in your immediate environment. There's a need to have action in the daily life, and children's affairs, such as their education, can become important issues. Organizing your daily routine so that it is interesting and varied is important at this time.

FOURTH HOUSE: A time when you turn inward to focus more on your own resources. A cycle ends and a new one begins as the Moon leaves this house. Old emotional habit patterns from childhood often emerge and, when examined, lead to adjustments. It can be a deeply reflective time when you want to withdraw from the world and concentrate on your private life and home, which can be a place of retreat. You feel you want to be nurtured. Family is important. There's a need to develop an emotionally secure foundation.

FIFTH HOUSE: An optimistic and confident two years when you feel you want to express yourself more creatively and take risks. You try out new hobbies or creative interests. Children can be important. It is time to "have a go" without the usual feelings of inhibition in areas in which you enjoy relaxing or expressing yourself.

SIXTH HOUSE: A time when you realize your mind and body must balance in order for you to feel good. Diet, exercise, and healthy, disciplined work patterns therefore become the focus of your

attention. You can judge yourself too harshly during this period and make heavy demands upon yourself. Self-analysis should be constructive and not involve undue recrimination. It is a time to learn about service without seeking accolades. Exercise certainly helps relieve any tendency to gloom and doom during this period.

SEVENTH HOUSE: A strong desire emerges to share—your life, creative interests, social occasions, and, sometimes, working partnerships. More energy is put into relationships, especially one-to-one encounters. You may have to deal with, or come before, the public. Shortly before the Moon progresses to the eighth house, a psychologically important event that has great emotional intensity and meaning can occur.

EIGHTH HOUSE: A "heavy" emotional time, often with power trips and struggles with others over emotional sexual issues and finances. Scorpio-type matters come to the fore, which bring confrontations of many sorts, resulting in you having to refine, and sometimes transform, your basic emotional characteristics. The intensity can "get you down" as you search for deeper meaning and values on which to base your future life. It is often a very profound period.

NINTH HOUSE: The change is dramatic after the previous period. You become more extroverted and confident, more interested in expanding your thinking and your life's horizons. You can travel, both mentally and physically, or study or lecture. While the Moon travels through this house, it is common to question many previously accepted life philosophies. There is a search to find a code by which to live if you haven't already found it for yourself.

TENTH HOUSE: Very often your job or career becomes the focus. Ambitions are stimulated during this period. It is a time when you strive to achieve your goals. Security and family are sometimes neglected as you can be quite detached and impersonal. People are seen as being useful in helping you achieve your ambitions. Somewhat ruthless behavior can emerge if the natal chart indicates such potential.

ELEVENTH HOUSE: During this period, you sometimes realize you have neglected friends too much during the previous two years. You can backtrack and become more socially involved and responsible. It is a period when you realize how you fit into other people's lives and strive to find your niche in the community. You want to assist groups of people in some way. You can be conscious of whether you are socially accepted or not at this time. Lecturing or talking to groups, such as Rotary Clubs and Toastmasters, or even embarking on a lecture tour can occur during this period.

TWELFTH HOUSE: As with the fourth and eighth house lunar progressions, you are thrown back on your own resources and made to examine any emotional unfinished business. It is a time when you can feel that your head doesn't belong to your body, as if you're not really "there" all the time. Somehow you can't reach out and do the things you previously did automatically. These feelings are best handled by making life as simple as possible and having time to yourself. It is a period when everything that seems to be leaving your life should be allowed to do so. Organize quiet periods so that you can examine the essential structures of your life to see what you want in the future.

Speaking generally, just before the progressed Moon leaves a house, something occurs that opens up fresh fields or new horizons

with regard to that house. Events connected with that house fluctuate more while the Moon passes through it. As the end of the period (around two-and-a-half years) is reached, all that you have done during that time is brought together in some way. People often find meaning during this period. The affairs of that house become stable. Sometimes an event occurs that reflects the essence of the period.

Moon-Mercury Progressed Aspects

This relates to progressed Mercury angling the natal Moon. This can be a period when the rational, logical mind is strongly influenced by the emotions, making the person much more moody. It can be a time of acute perception, when intuitive emotional knowledge is combined with rational analysis. Alternatively, it can be a time when the logical processes are scrambled and overcome by emotion. There is more restlessness and mood fluctuation, which other people may find hard to handle, especially with the difficult aspects. Trying to discuss something important with a person with this progression always seems to evoke an emotional response that irritates others; however, it is a good time for communicating one's feelings, for adaptability and versatility, or for communicating with the public or learning how to be proficient at public speaking. It is a time when one may be involved with young people and young women, especially.

This progression brings opportunities for traveling, writing, literary activities, gaining entrance to a university, or winning a scholarship. It is a time to be with grandchildren, siblings, and neighbors. It is often a time of personal popularity. There can be domestic or business changes that require you to pay attention to details in order to sort things out.

The nervous system is vulnerable, and often the mental health can become a focus because of emotional instability and restlessness. If this is a problem, then it is advisable to slow down and simplify daily activities. Great attention should be paid to the natal aspects of both

Mercury and the Moon and to other progressions and transits occurring at the same time. Mental instability is more likely to occur if *both* the Moon and Mercury have difficult natal aspects.

My clients' experiences included starting a small supermarket, starting a car-leasing business, travel, and having to look after grandchildren on a daily basis because of the parents' divorce. Another client undertook a two-year course in human resources and public relations.

Moon-Venus Progressed Aspects

This progression is not a hard one to experience. The feelings for the period include love and devotion to, and from, the women in your life. It is a time to experience and give unconditional love, and therefore it is a good time to learn about loving others in spite of their faults, accepting them completely as they are. A client of mine expressed it very well. He said, "It was a time when I felt more tender than I have ever felt before." If the Moon is in hard angles at birth, even this progression will not mitigate the difficulties of the natal chart. Many of the pleasures will come, but the emotional nature of the person will cause him to react with insecurity or fluctuation in temperament and feelings.

For most people, it is usually a very sociable period, and many of my clients decorated their homes or beautified their surroundings in some way. It is a time to take advantage of any artistic leanings or public affairs training, improve your finances, and network in your job. This progression may express itself through the women in your life, your mother, sisters, daughters, and wife. It can denote marriage (male charts), parenthood, or setting up a home.

Being a Venus-involved progression, you can be lazy and self-indulgent. There is a need to push yourself to do things. In extreme cases, it denotes an idle, slovenly period. You can lavish attention on the wrong kind of person, start taking drugs, become overweight, or lose a job because you have not exerted yourself sufficiently. Even

death or bereavement can occur as a means of restoring harmony and releasing pain. In other words, there can be emotional disappointments rather than being a time for good feelings. One of my clients had a kidney removed at this time.

Clients' experiences included marriage, parenthood (of twin daughters), becoming a public affairs consultant and running seminars, holding an art exhibition after retirement, and setting up an interior design business in partnership with a woman. A couple opened their garden regularly to the public at this time.

Moon-Mars Progressed Aspects

This progression (Mars to natal Moon) engenders more likelihood of "losing it" than most others. (See the natal chart in the appendix.) Several clients said it was a time when they completely lost their temper, so be warned. It is a period of dynamic emotions which need to be well directed. One of my clients chose to "sell" his particular religion by daily door knocking and ended up being beaten up. Mars can introduce a fervor and enthusiasm into hobbies and interests, but requires you to use it constructively. "Everything in moderation" is the catch phrase of the period, but this will be hard to achieve.

The positive outlet for this emotional energy is to direct it into activities or work that is of consuming interest. This turns it into passionate enthusiasm. This progressed combination tends to make you a severe judge of yourself, your work, and others, so be aware of this tendency. The desire for change and fresh experiences can bring about situations that use up mental or physical energy to great advantage. This same restlessness can lead to journeys—for both work and travel, especially in search of adventure. There is more courage available, so anything that requires initiative and taking risks is recommended. Impetuousness can cause accidents. Also, exercise as much tact as possible or you will lose friends and influence.

Healthwise, there is the possibility of infections, high temperatures, indigestion, and general digestive troubles, broken bones, accidents

with machinery or cars, and getting badly burnt. Illnesses involving the women in your life can occur during this period. This can be a particularly healthy period if effort is put into exercise to constructively use Martian energy.

Clients' experiences include hitchhiking within Australia and overseas, starting an engineering business, training as a specialist aircraft engineer, touring the United States, giving birth (to either sex), divorce, death in an accident (this was one of the rare times I looked at a chart and saw this as a distinct possibility), and almost losing their family home in the 1994 Sydney bushfires. One client's husband with this progression was alienated from his daughter during her puberty because he met her difficult period with a bad temper and angry discipline.

Moon-Jupiter Progressed Aspects

As in the Moon/Venus progression, this period brings a propensity for cherishing and loving which stimulates warm emotional responses from others. If the natal Moon is in the tenth house, it can bring public popularity or fame. There is an undercurrent of sociability and optimism. Expecting the good things to happen and to come to you actually does bring them "before your very eyes," to quote a client of mine. Because the Moon influences our home lives, this can be a particularly joyful, smooth-running domestic period; the family feels good and often expands with marriages and births. Again, this can reflect on the activities and health of the women in your life.

Highly significant events that are long remembered can occur during this period. Clients of mine undertook memorable long-distance trips, started university (overseas in two cases), published books, and one went on a lecture tour. One client had a daughter with one leg who married under this progression, which was a big event in that family. All these experiences are typical of this progression.

Again, with Jupiter, don't go overboard. It is quite difficult to find the balance between taking risks and expanding, and knowing when to draw the line. Boastful, arrogant assumptions can cause problems, overflowing emotions can tie you up with the wrong person or people in business. One client bought a very grand house and became rather snobbish (his wife's words). He later found he had overestimated his finances considerably.

Health is jeopardized from too much food and drink, which overloads the liver. Increased weight, put on at this time, is extraordinarily difficult to take off later. Circulatory disease leading to heart problems can occur but, because of the joie de vivre felt with this combination, most people want to play sports or exercise during this time.

It is also common to gamble (even if you have never before had an inclination to do so) and lose too much money at the casino. Other clients started branches of businesses overseas and in Australia. Publishing and printing ventures were initiated, and one lady opened her own swimming school.

Moon-Saturn Progressed Aspects

Aspects of progressed Saturn to the natal Moon stimulate self-control and stabilization of the emotions, concentration, perseverance, thoughtfulness, and a sense of obligation and conscientiousness. This can be a time of carrying out a duty to older people, of doing a difficult task at work, or of getting things in order in your life. It bestows the ability to apply yourself to any involved task at hand, very often to the exclusion of everything else.

The downside of this combination is a sense of emotional alienation or depression. If there is an indication of this in the natal chart, this period can cause anxiety, pessimism, and mood swings that can range from apprehension to melancholy. There is a fear of not being

good enough or of having all your faults exposed, and this leads to criticism of others and selfishness. Self-deprecation can be a problem.

The domestic scene can be restrictive or bring heavy responsibilities or loneliness within the home. Very often, life is peculiarly humdrum during this period, even under easy aspects. Sometimes this progression can result in a person being dominated by, or responsible for, the proverbial mother-in-law or elderly relative. This domination can take place at work, with a heavy hand being administered by someone in authority over you. There can be sickness involving the women or the elderly in your life. The best use of this irksome period is to settle down to a difficult task and use the extra powers of concentration it bestows to really achieve something.

The health can suffer because the feelings and emotions are inhibited. You can be vulnerable to complaints (often of the chronic variety) such as arthritis, chills, and the flu. The parts of the body ruled by Saturn and the Moon and the signs and houses (and those opposite) in which they are placed are especially likely to suffer. For example, Saturn in Virgo natively indicated colitis in a client. It was triggered by progressed *and* transiting Saturn square natal Moon. Difficulty in childbirth and trouble with joints, cartilage, the back, and circulation can occur at this time. Because there is a lowered resistance to illness due to depressed spirits, any exercise regime should be encouraged.

My clients suffered bereavement, solitude, responsibility for grandchildren which proved too much, a business going bankrupt, writing a book, and emigration without any relatives or extended family to support them. One young student wrote his final thesis for a degree in architecture and found a good job, another had a hip replacement, and another had her parents lose their house in Sarajevo in a civil war. One client “adopted” an elderly uncle who had no one else to look after him. The uncle set fire to his bedroom while lighting a cigarette and burned down part of her home.

Moon-Uranus Progressed Aspects

Both progressions and transits by the three outer planets beyond Saturn—Uranus, Neptune, and Pluto—are felt very strongly when they make aspects to the natal personal planets. When they make a progressed aspect to the natal Moon, I allow a 5° orb—around 4° applying and 1° separating

What a very different “feel” the Uranus/Moon period has from the Saturn/Moon period. *Electrifying* is the word you could use to describe the physical body at this time. This can be a period of upsets calling for sudden adjustment in the home, in the family, or in the way you deal with the public if that is connected with the natal Moon (tenth house or Cancer on the tenth house cusp). The emotional upsets can make you impulsive and even rash, brash, and dangerous. It is not so much that the things that happen are bad or difficult to handle, rather that they are sudden and surprising. It is a period of profound psychological development if you are willing to let go of rigid patterns of behavior in which you are “stuck”. Once you get the hang of going with the flow of the new tempo of life, then this progressed period can be quite exhilarating.

As the Moon signifies your hidden emotional habit patterns and behavior affected by what you do to nurture yourself, these aspects of your personal life are the most subject to the surprising elements of Uranus. They generally manifest most in your home. Maintaining a sense of emotional equilibrium is the aim during the progression, with the objective of revivifying your emotions in order to put you in touch with life again. This is no small task, so you are not going to get there easily. Land, home, possessions, attitudes, or your very emotional way of being could be turned upside down. If you understand what the goal is, though, then you can deal with each condition as it arises without getting in a panic. As you do this, you will find that any existing rigidity is loosening, that you do not fall apart at the

seams, and, because you simply can't guess what is going to happen next, that you are almost forced to be emotionally flexible. Astrologers can't predict events at this time and would be silly to try to do so. Uranus *has* to be surprising, by nature.

Strong self-will is evident. You could become infatuated with someone outside your marriage who offers you freedom. You could insist it is your right to leave. Tell your clients to beware, because when the Uranian influence has passed, the interest nearly always does, too, and they could be left "looking at an alien person over the breakfast coffee pot," as one of my clients so aptly put it. Fanaticism, stubbornness, or determination constructively used to strive and work hard toward achieving a goal can manifest. There is an overwhelming desire for unhampered self-expression, change, and excitement, so you can be extraordinarily restless—and ruthless.

It can be very positive all the way along the line because you have been inhibited and unwilling to experiment with original methods of doing things. Now you will try them. You inaugurate the changes to gain fresh experiences and you will reach out to make new contacts and discover fresh fields of endeavor. Anything Uranian, such as the computer world, acupuncture, astrology, electrical businesses, and anything to do with music, are appropriate ventures during this period.

The health suffers from overexcitement, insomnia, and nervous tension. There can be headaches, trouble with the ankles, peculiarities in bodily rhythms (breathing, heartbeat, and menstruation), and prostate trouble. I recommend acupuncture during this progression.

My clients' experiences match the period. One client installed a computer in the home of her elderly parents while she went out to get customers for her new home business, which proved successful. Another was struck by lightning on the golf course (she had so much happen in the two-year period she came to me). I, myself, had a huge tree fall down and destroy my garage and garden (Aquarian fourth

house cusp), and I had an aberrant nerve in my heart treated by ablation, a revolutionary medical method. Many clients started computer businesses, and one became a drummer in a band. Yet another started a computer animation-cum virtual reality film company for use in making films. Marriage can occur (males), and one woman learned to fly. Giving birth is also a possibility.

Moon-Neptune Progressed Aspects

This progression will herald many changes in your emotional and personal life that can be quite hard to handle initially. This combination can sensitize your emotions to an extent you haven't experienced before. It feels as if a window on the world, which has been previously closed to you, suddenly opens to reveal a view you have never seen or experienced before. This can be breathtaking, beautiful, or downright frightening, because it reveals intangibles that don't have a basis in previously known reality. Your conscious mind does not know how to define, compartmentalize, and interpret this material, so it is put into the "scary" box.

If you can accept the insights that come and not try to analyze them, you will find you can just "hang there" until you have become used to feeling these strange moods. You will then find it easier to use this period constructively. This is important because if you try and take action on what you believe is the true situation, or based on what you think you understand, you will, initially anyway, find out that exactly the opposite is true. In real-life terms, this can mean you believe the love of your life has appeared—the only person who has ever understood the "real you." You may marry or leave your marriage, or go to Israel to join a guy, as one of my clients did, only to find you can't afford to come back. Only then, when you have burned your bridges, will you find out it was a mirage. There is a great danger of being fascinated by an ideal—in love, in business, or in monetary affairs. Neptune reveals emotional character flaws by

beckoning to you and promising the things you have most wanted in your wildest dreams, making you believe they are there, that it is at last happening to you. This is not a period describing the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth; but, strangely, at the end of this period you may find you never knew the whole truth until now! You will have obtained it by a different method from that used by the conscious, rational mind.

The greater sensitivity you display during this progressed aspect enables you to be empathetic, but make sure the recipient deserves your help. The increased inspiration is marvelous for anyone with artistic talent in all its manifestations. A client of mine married her first husband because she believed in his artistic potential (natal Neptune in the seventh house). He had some talent, but nothing like her imaginings, and her constant nagging (as he called it), intended to encourage him to be more productive, increased his drinking problem and he became an alcoholic during this progression. Obsessive behavior is a danger now.

It does sound negative, but if you can ride the waves of Neptune, you will gain great wisdom and find at the end of the period that your judgment is better. You can become popular, participate in social schemes that help underprivileged people, study medicine or art, or go on long, interesting journeys that usually have an element of unreality. A client of mine went to Mongolia on business. Your yearnings may be for perfection or martyrdom, but get out your paintbrush or your clarinet instead and be practical, or you may dream away this period.

Health can suffer from drug taking, even from taking prescribed drugs. You can be incorrectly diagnosed or sent to a bad doctor. One client of mine, who needed Social Security and emotional support when her husband walked out and left her with three small children, was sent to a psychiatrist who wanted to use hypnotherapy to take her back to *her* supposed childhood traumas (for ninety dollars an

hour in the 1980s.) Fatigue can be problematic, and chronic fatigue syndrome or any nebulous, undefined, difficult-to-diagnose complaint can occur. Get anything untoward checked. The fluids in the body can be disturbed as can the glands (such as pituitary, adrenals, and penal glands). Eye diseases, such as glaucoma, and tumors can occur.

My clients did not use this period well until it was nearly over. One had swollen ankles for many months and wandering blood clots from a particularly long flight overseas (aged fifty-five). Another lost her daughter, who left for the city. The woman was able to contact her later on. Two clients destroyed their marriages, and one of these men learned to play the trombone in a brass band. Another client bought his own plane after belonging to a parachute-jumping club for years. Several clients had difficulties or troubles with the women in their lives. One experienced menopause and cried at the drop of a hat. If this progression occurs during menopause or puberty, the person needs support with sound, practical advice. Two clients lost a great deal of money, and another won a house, some land, and a boat in a part of the country where he didn't want to live. It took him a long time to sell it all. Yet another client learned self-hypnosis and cured his smoking habit (four packs a day). It is a good time to learn yoga or meditation.

At the end of the period, hopefully, you will have found great insight and wisdom that you could not have obtained in any other way, and maybe you will have developed some artistic talent. But if you made drastic, life-changing decisions under a difficult progressed aspect, you may wake up with that Monday morning feeling.

Moon-Pluto Progressed Aspects

When Pluto and the Moon are in aspect, the intent is to make you emotionally self-sufficient and to transform your instinctive emotional reactions to external circumstances and situations. In fact, progressed lunar aspects to the outer planets do exactly this. They completely

alter your emotional, instinctive habit patterns. This is not achieved with “soap opera” incidents, but through substantial life events. Through being forced to uncover your emotional behavior, you will come to understand the inner emotional dynamics of other people and their motivations. Sometimes the situations that force you to examine your own internal feelings are emotionally shocking, so this is not an easy period. You have to work hard to get to the root of the problem and to maintain your emotional equilibrium.

For instance, a client of mine had four children over the age of twenty-four still living at home. Both she and her husband worked. She was constantly tired, complaining that they didn’t lift a finger to help and ate her out of house and home while she waited on them hand and foot. Two of them decided to go overseas for working holidays. My client collapsed. Her emotional dependency and fear of loneliness and the “nest” changing was the impetus for them still living at home. She was forced to see her emotional pattern, to become more self-sufficient, to allow her children to mature and learn adult behavior.

This is the kind of problem this progression uncovers. In the course of the period, many fundamental changes will occur involving completely fresh contacts and calling for new attitudes and radical ways of relating. You will be emotionally intense during this time, so there can be loss of popularity because you feel “heavy” to other people. Dealing with such strong emotions can be quite difficult. Some people are able to “read” the public mind and appeal to mass emotions through political activities, music, dance, theater, public relations, and so on. One client started his own highly successful seminars on how to manage money. Another, an architect, traveled to Japan to learn about the structure of Japanese gardens. He built his own garden, incorporating it as a courtyard, and then continued to use the designs in his work.

There can be births, marriages, deaths, job losses, and events affecting the women in your life. Any event that stimulates enormous emotional change to uncover complexes that have lain dormant, sometimes since infancy, can occur. The milder aspects are easier to deal with. There can be intense, soul-to-soul relationships with women that uncover the possessiveness or ownership overlay. This forces new ways of relating. Troubles in the home can reveal deep-seated, lingering insecurities, but if you realize that it is all pushing you to be more emotionally mature and self-sufficient, you can run with the tide to some extent. If you have lived on the surface of life, you will now see possibilities that will deepen your experiences. Examine the houses both planets rule as well as the house opposite and their natal positions.

The health can be beset by digestive problems because emotional reactions affect the stomach and bowels. Cancer and tumors can occur, as can trouble with the circulatory system or reproductive organs. Retaining fluid is another possibility. The obsessive-compulsive side of this progression can lead to lowering of the autoimmune system, and chronic fatigue can seem almost a daily companion.

Again, exercise is an excellent antidote to intense emotions. The client whose adult children left home bought a dog, exercised it morning and evening, and told it all her troubles on their walks—very therapeutic.

Mercury’s Progressed Aspects

Mercury has no interpretation of its own beyond variety and changes occurring. Its connections, according to its basic astrological meanings, are with communication in all its forms, young people, and relatives. When Mercury aspects its own natal place, it brings all these matters to the fore. Its natal sign, house, and especially its aspects are all important in progressions. For instance, the semisquare to its natal place by solar arc, around forty-five years of age, will be strongly

influenced by the natal Mercury's aspects. If it is conjunct Jupiter, in spite of the progressed aspect, the period will not be difficult beyond scattering the mind. If it is in a T-square natally, the picture will be entirely different according to the planets to which it is connected. If it has a Saturn opposition, the progressed semisquare will be quite depressing, and for the young people in your life; but you can always learn from progressed aspects how to handle the original T-square. Can you turn the Saturn-Mercury combination into concentrated study, a truthful honest period, and produce something tangible? Again, examine the house Mercury is in, the progressed house, and the houses opposite the Gemini and Virgo-ruled house cusps. Any progression involving Mercury can bring changes to your life.

If Mercury is your Ascendant, Sun, T-square ruler, or T-square apex planet, is conjunct an angle, or is involved in a grand cross pattern, all progressions will be important for you. They will teach you a great deal about the initial configuration and how you express yourself. If Mercury and the Moon are natally in difficult angles, arrange as calm a lifestyle as you can manage, because you could become quite nervous during this period.

In the signs Gemini and Virgo natally, Mercury expresses well and clearly unless aspected to Neptune, Jupiter, or Uranus by difficult angles. People with Mercury in Virgo want to practically apply their ideas more than those with Mercury in Gemini. People with Mercury in Sagittarius take a long time to get to the point and tend to bring a mass of extraneous detail that is unimportant into their discussions or communications, which can bore other people. They go off on tangents and suddenly bring other subjects into the conversation. People with Mercury in Pisces allow too much information to creep into their minds and then can't sort out exactly what they want to say. A good Mercury marshals the relevant facts, remembers details, and delivers slowly and clearly. I say all this because Mercury can progress into another sign and give its owner a chance to see how they communicate if Mercury is in its fall or detriment natally.

Mercury-Venus Progressed Aspects

This period is characterized by a much greater appreciation of the arts and an awareness of beauty in music, poetry, theater, dancing, and such things as floristry, interior decorating, garden design, and pottery. It is usually a good time in the lives of young people with whom you are connected. This progression works on the mind rather than the feelings. It is a calm period during which you will be better able to communicate your feelings.

In difficult angles, or if the natal Mercury is in difficult aspect, it can indicate vanity, conceit, hypersensitivity, passivity, and extravagance. Traveling, writing, studying, enlisting the help of neighbors or young people, gaining good publicity, learning the social graces if you need to, and studying self-expression or speech making are possible activities. The social life is usually enjoyable during this period.

Mercury-Mars Progressed Aspects

Do your homework for all your undertakings during this period because it is easy to go off half-baked without adequate knowledge of your subject. It is also easy to act indiscriminately without a measure of control. The period will be mentally stimulating, too stimulating if the aspects are difficult natally or in the progressed chart. You can demolish that backlog of mental work that has grown in your office, but you can also demolish people if you don't watch your tongue. Take on difficult projects, study, travel to places that you can write about or which require a measure of hardiness or fitness in order to make use of your newly found spirit of enterprise. This is a particularly busy period.

An overactive mind can make you irritable and perverse, and can make you take precipitate action and waste energy on undirected, feverish activity. You can get very angry with your children who may themselves express the overexcitability at this time in reaction to you. Clients of mine have had to deal with rude and sarcastic teenagers.

Conflict is almost certain to occur unless both planets are natively well aspected. There is a liking for argument and debate. The son of one of my clients with this progression was a member of his high-school debating team, which won the annual state debating championship. Putting pen to paper to express strong views is another manifestation of this planetary combination, which journalists can take full advantage of. There is the possibility of using fraudulent means to achieve one's goals. Don't take your ego too seriously at this time, because there is a tendency to rush to your defense when nobody has attacked you. Other people may feel you are spoiling for a fight. Defend your real concerns.

Health can be affected by muscle, ligament, or tendon strains in arms, shoulders, and hands. Lung infections can occur as can intestinal disorders. Again, if Mercury or the Moon are natively in difficult aspect, mental strain can result.

Clients' activities included writing a travel-cum-recipe book, winning a scholarship, going to China at the time of the Tiananmen Square uprising in Peking, having children made wards of the state, and writing an honors thesis for a degree.

Mercury-Jupiter Progressed Aspects

This is usually a period of sound common sense and constructive, intelligent action. There is a sunny, optimistic attitude to life if the natal and progressed aspects are easy. Many ideas are expressed, but, funnily enough, this is most often done in solitude, such as writing at your desk at home. It can be a stimulating intellectual period with many ideas flowing both in and out. There is sound judgment based on maximum understanding, so it is a good time for business affairs, negotiations, and dealing with others. It is also a sociable time, generally in your daily environment, as Jupiter makes us feel sociable.

You can be more tolerant and see the broader issues, and you are not easily angered; but it is this very broadness that can be the prob-

lem with this progression. Pay attention to the fine print and the small details, especially if signing legal documents. Don't arrogantly assume you know it all, because there is a danger during this period of patronizing people, proselytizing, and making announcements that do not come from solid factual knowledge but are rather opinions.

The health is usually good, but hip, tendon, or lung troubles are possibilities. Asthma occurred in one client. Another had acute Achilles tendon problems during training for a marathon run.

Learning public speaking, traveling, publishing, success in litigation, transport, and education are all possibilities. If you are wheeling and dealing with money, make sure you are not overly extravagant. Overdoing all the positives is the danger at this time. If moderation is practiced, it can be a highly successful period.

Mercury-Saturn Progressed Aspects

During the period of this progression, there is a preoccupation with the serious side of life. The mind can be depressed or well concentrated, or both. There is logical thinking with good depth of thought, but not a liking for abstractions. Much can be achieved through industriousness, thoroughness, and organized application to the task at hand.

The negative manifestation involves too narrow a way of thinking and viewing situations. There can be harshness in expressing yourself, too conservative an outlook, and distrust of information and other people. Again, how this period affects you depends on the natal aspects. As usual, examine houses, signs, rulerships, and opposite houses in the natal chart.

The cautious approach can be carried to extremes. The critical faculties can be overworked because you can see the flaws in everything—yourself and other people—very clearly. Assume you are seeing the pessimistic view of things at this time and that there is another, happier side to the coin.

Health is subject to a lowering of resistance, and the immune system is sluggish. Colds, flu, loss of mobility, depression, and rheumatic disorders can be problems.

Clients' experiences included completing a scientific doctoral-degree thesis, obtaining a much-wanted building contract and then working very hard on the project, suffering agoraphobia, leading a community group against local council road policies, hospitalization of a child with meningitis, looking after an elderly sick parent, trouble over a communal neighborhood fence, and defining strategic policy for a big industrial corporation. Two or three clients had very bad depressions, and one was hospitalized. Now we are realizing that the chemicals of the brain have a large part in this, but we do not yet know whether we can manipulate these by drugs, let alone by thoughts. A friend of mine had acute pneumonia.

Mercury-Uranus Progressed Aspects

This is an exciting time for those who have a well-aspected natal Mercury. There is so much of interest that the mind doesn't always know which way to turn. It can become nervous, scattered, and restless. There is much inventive and intuitive thinking, or an interest in scientific, electronic, technical, mathematical, or musical subjects. Anyone with a natural sense of rhythm can develop it during this progression. If you have a problem at this time, the solution can come like a lightning strike. What actually happens is the normal A-to-D mental steps are accelerated so that you start at A and reach D without seeing the pathways in between. This is how Uranus works. Don't jump to the conclusion that you have always found the right answer, although you often intuitively have.

You may find more mentally cautious souls very boring at this time, and one or two of my clients left their relationships. One was a sixty-three-year-old woman who had been married for thirty-five years. Sometimes marriage occurs during this progression, and you can be

faced with a totally unexpected and new environment to which you have to adapt. I find that this combination of planets occurs when people decide to live together in a de facto relationship. Sometimes there is a good deal of self-will and stubbornness. Try to direct the Uranian originality into subjects like computers or music.

The health is affected by nervous troubles, skin complaints, lung troubles, and repetitive strain injury (RSI), or through playing an instrument or using a computer for too long. Acupuncture can be used to release energy and slow the person down.

Clients' experiences were varied. There was a child with RSI who developed it through practicing the piano for long periods. Other clients traveled, published articles, edited a rock band magazine, and one moved house three times. Another client used a mathematical equation to solve a difficult scientific problem and won accolades. Yet another suddenly lost his job as a computer journalist and started his own electronic business. One client went to Hong Kong and then to China to learn acupuncture.

Mercury-Neptune Progressed Aspects

If there isn't a link between these two planets natively, one can forgive the client for thinking that he might be losing his mind. The rational, logical side doesn't work as efficiently as usual, and the mind is open to all sorts of impressions and imaginative scenarios, perhaps for the first time. The nervous system is much more sensitive and may even reach the point of nervous exhaustion; however, the funny side of life becomes more obvious, so there can be increased humor used in communication, written or verbal.

What is happening is that the Neptune expansion is enlarging the neural pathways to allow all sorts of input that would normally be filtered out. It can be a time of inspired creative thinking if the natal aspects to Mercury are easy and the progressed aspect is helpful. Alternatively, it can be a somewhat scary couple of years, when the

mind becomes confused because it doesn't know what to take seriously and what to discard. There is too much input, leading to muddled thinking and speech. Most dangerous of all is the interpretation of what comes in. For example, a client of mine had cancer, but with several long remissions. She also encountered this progression during her illness and saw all her women friends as potential second wives of her husband. In normal circumstances she would have laughed at herself, but, with lowered resistance and bouts of depression, her mind played tricks on her.

On the plus side, one can see infinite possibilities that were not realized before this period. There is a need to transcend everyday thinking, so this can be a period like no other. One client of mine discovered this when he found he could design stage scenery for a famous theater and express previously unrealized creative potential by making extraordinarily imaginative scenes. "My imagination soared," he said, "even to the extent of designing ways the carpenter could build the backdrops." This is the secret—making the intangible tangible. It is hard to find willpower with anything connected with Neptune, hard to force the imaginary fears out of the mind and lock on to the creative ones. If clients find they lack confidence when expressing themselves at this time, tell them that this is normal and that it is better if they keep their thoughts to themselves if they feel like this. Neptune vaporizes whatever it contacts, so people find it takes great determination to demolish negative thoughts; but don't block off too much, or creativity will be blocked. If a balance can be maintained, this combination conveys great subtlety in expression and comprehension. We depend on Mercury qualities a great deal to supply us with confidence, so seeing it draining away can be frightening. It is a time when it is sensible to organize one's life so that creative work can be done in the quiet of one's home, where there is not much to distract the person. I always advise clients under the difficult aspects to

make their lives as uncluttered and as simple as possible for the duration of this progression or transit.

Anything mysterious will attract, and the odd client of mine has delved into witchcraft and scientology. It is a good time to study astrology, herbal remedies, or any of the alternative methods of healing. If the aspects involved natively or in the progression are difficult ones, it is important that, if you have to sign legal documents at this time, you check and recheck the fine print, or perhaps even obtain a trusted adviser. One tends to believe what one wants to believe. Signing important papers in the financial field or exchanging legal contracts must be carried out very carefully. The person can mislead others or be deceived himself under Mercury-Neptune combinations.

Healthwise, allergies, skin sensitivity, nervousness, shingles, psoriasis, asthma, and psychosomatic illnesses can be a problem. Herbs and alternative therapies can help. It is not a period in which to go for optional surgery, as there is a general lack of bodily tone. If Mercury and the Moon are in difficult aspect natively, the person needs to organize a *very* quiet time because the mind can suffer delusions. Sea travel, such as a cruise, can be very beneficial to the health.

Clients' experiences included being misled by real-estate agents—the land they bought was not the land on the plan, stealing from a department store, which the client had never done or been tempted to do previously, nervous breakdown due to exhaustion, directing a high-school musical, becoming a full-time dress designer, gaining a scholarship to a ballet company, composing film music, producing a film that won awards, having to deal with a child on drugs (experienced by several clients), and being diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease.

Mercury-Pluto Progressed Aspects

Far from lacking confidence as under Neptune, under this progression one wants to mold other people's thinking. The easy natal and progressed angles indicate the use of persuasion and suggestion to

influence others. The more difficult aspects indicate that coercion and dictatorial methods may be utilized to influence other people's thinking and actions.

There is often a crisis in thought during this period. For example, you may realize your religious views are no longer relevant, and you discard them. It is a suitable time to develop any latent talents as a speaker or teacher. Usually you are able to sustain deep, concentrated thinking, and there is great insight into the psychology and motivations of other people. Research is a suitable occupation at this time, whether for class projects or more complex scientific purposes. Investigative journalism is another option. One or two clients who were university lecturers said they did their best research under this progression.

A well-aspected Mercury, when combined with Pluto, indicates diplomacy and subtlety. Difficult aspects indicate an inclination to use cunning or sly or crafty methods to convince others or impress your ideas upon them. There can be hasty thinking leading to premature, ill-advised actions, irritability, and impatience. In any case, communication with other people during this period seems to be of greater significance to you and carries a degree of intensity. Several clients of mine were in their late teens during this progression and were questioning everything—how the world is run, politics, and environmental issues—and discussing them in great depth.

If you do not try to coerce others, they may try to coerce you under this progression. It is a good time to listen to what other people say about how you communicate; they will give you important feedback about yourself. If you can be flexible in your thinking and avoid becoming obsessed with fanatical ideals, you can reexamine the way you think and gain a much greater understanding of life.

Mercury-Pluto combinations enable you to either enlist the cooperation of relatives, students, neighbors, or subordinates at work, or to create situations where others feel they have to curb your ideas because you express them too strongly and fanatically.

Health problems include cancer (in one client's case, throat cancer), lung troubles, skin complaints, and nervous disorders. Again, if the natal Moon and Mercury are in difficult aspect, it may be necessary to arrange a quiet period in one's life to prevent the stress from becoming too great.

My clients' situations included death of parents or the person himself, emphysema of the lungs, research for a doctoral degree, standing as a political candidate, and representing students in a university union.

Venus Progressed Aspects

Venus' influence affects relationships, be they between people, tiles on the walls of a mosque, a dancer and his music, a painter and his painting, notes in a music score, colors on a dress, or love and sexual relations between human beings. If Venus has easy aspects, relationships in all forms, the ability to really enjoy tasks like furnishing one's house, and good design and fashion sense seem to come more naturally. There will be harmony. In more difficult aspects, relationships in all forms tend to be extreme, outrageous, garish, or hard to achieve. Venus also influences the social life, not in the way Jupiter does, but in warm, close, loving relationships with friends. Jupiter represents the desire to get together, while Venus is more the quality of the relationship. Relationships can be particularly rewarding at this time or provide an excuse for not having enough time to achieve much in life. Strongly Venusian people can be diplomatic or find their profession as generals in an army (there are more famous Libran generals than there are of any other sign), because this involves relationship with the enemy and strategy. "It all depends . . ." as Librans often say.

Venus-Mars Progressed Aspects

This is the combination par excellence for sexual passion. The "I give" of Venus is balanced with the "I want" of Mars. If Mars is

stronger in the natal chart, say, in Scorpio, it will override Venus and there will be little inclination to relate truly, but much taking in the form of emotional sexual pleasure. This can result in emotional disappointments and broken relationships. If Venus is the stronger natively, this can be a really enjoyable, balanced, progressive time. Peace can be made with anyone with whom you have not been getting on, and it can be a very ardent time in an existing relationship.

If natal and progressed aspects are difficult, there is irritability, a tendency to exaggerate, excitability, and feelings of “divine dissatisfaction.” Sensuality can alternate with periods of extreme coolness. Marriage can occur, but this combination is more likely to produce a passionate affair. On the other hand, if balance is maintained between the need for real relating and individual self-expression, there can be a particularly satisfying union. The person is vivacious at this time. Even if shy, the person will be inclined to be socially prominent. The social life becomes much more active. Artistically it can be very productive, with the energy of Mars producing results.

There can be scandal, an inclination to marry the wrong person on impulse, exposure of an affair, which can harm the reputation, bereavement, accidents, incidents involving siblings, intervention of a rival, and generally turbulent times unless the Martian energy is well directed.

Health problems tend to involve autonomic dysfunctions in areas such as the balance of the sympathetic and parasympathetic nervous system, which keeps the balance in the “fight-or-flight” mechanism; so bowels, kidneys, adrenal glands, and menstruation functions can be disturbed. Varicose veins can be a problem, and any infections, especially of the genito-urinary tract, should be taken seriously.

Most of my clients seem to have taken the negative road during this progression, which is possibly why they came to me. Children suffered bowel complaints like gastroenteritis, travelers were sick, and some clients had relationship breakups. One person was made head

of the art department in a College of TAFE (continuing education). Several clients became ballroom dancers, and one couple won a major competition. Look at the signs of rulership, the houses involved, and the opposite houses to see how best to express any creativity shown in the natal chart.

Venus-Jupiter Progressed Aspects

Ease of expression and harmonious social impulses come to the fore during this progression. It is a time to expand in art, the social life, finance, and professional work. The person becomes more tolerant, at least temporarily, but can permanently retain knowledge gained after the progression has passed. Both males and females find that women will strongly support them at this time. It is a good time for the women in your life. It can also be a time of gross self-indulgence and laziness. This *is* a very lazy combination, and, as things come so easily, it is possible to fritter away golden opportunities. Even people in authority, such as employers and bosses, are benevolent at this time.

You can undermine this lovely time by being indiscriminate and slovenly. Clients have lost lovers, let advantageous opportunities slip away, put on weight, or produced sloppy work that had to be redone. When the progression had passed, one client was given the sack because other people’s tolerance has diminished. On the positive side, any artistic work is enhanced, including literary work. It is a good time to seek publication.

If there is much overeating and drinking, the liver is likely to suffer. Exercise can make full use of the happy moods and keep the body well adjusted. Glands in the body might not do their job well, and hormones might be unbalanced.

My clients’ experiences included holding art exhibitions, marriage, improved social life, divorce, taking up amateur acting as a hobby, travel, giving birth, being made head of a leading department in a

chain store, and establishing an interior decorating business that became financially very successful.

Venus-Saturn Progressed Aspects

Love, and the expression of love, are restricted by Saturn's influence, even under the easy aspects of this progression. The one thing your clients can depend on, though, is that what the person feels is the real thing. It won't be a "fly-by-night" romance without depth. This combination means love is tempered by practical considerations, but it can be very long-lasting. Artistic expression must give way to practical considerations. If you've ever wanted to sculpt, do it now. In real terms, this progression can indicate the artist who modifies or expresses his work so that it can have commercial application. In love, it can mean one of the partners is considerably older or can have some defect that prevents full expression of the feelings, such as a person who has suffered a painful divorce or is a burden in some way. One of my clients married an unemployed person and came to me because of the outcry from her parents. One partner can be far more worldly and act as a guide or teacher to the other. For instance, a client of mine married a man of sixty when she was thirty-seven years old. The union was blissful, though he wanted to stay at home much more than she did; but she hadn't had much of a home life previously. He was experienced in managing money and running a house, and she was happy with this. They decided not to have children because he had a minor heart condition. It all worked. She came to me because friends and family made such a fuss about the union.

Venus/Saturn relationships are not flamboyant, but they are characterized by loyalty and a true understanding of the give and take of love. They are steady and reliable, but they can be dutiful. The keywords are *control of the emotions*. If this progression occurs in a person who is already emotionally repressed, it is not helpful; but for a person who is more flamboyant and often goes to emotional extremes, its stable nature can be very useful.

This same steadiness applies to financial affairs during this period. A fling on the stock market is not desired, but capital-guaranteed stock is. Land, property, and solid business investments provide a good return. Sometimes, if one is young, it is one's father who prospers at this time.

There can be emotional disappointments because the person is involved in a one-sided love affair where one partner cares more for maintaining the relationship than the other. As I mentioned, second marriages where partners have been hurt often have this progressed combination. The hurt from the first "letdown" curbs the feelings too much; or one partner may be able to express feelings, but the emotionally injured partner cannot. Such situations call for psychotherapy, and an astrologer can very gently recommend this by explaining the deeper meaning of this progressed combination. When Saturnian control is carried to extremes, there can be quarrels, estrangements, and the inability to express sympathy for the emotional problems of others.

This progression often brings a mature woman into the life, which can be a long-lasting friendship. Two of my clients, divorced women who both had Saturn/Venus combinations occurring, decided to live together and the friendship was deep, reliable, but undemonstrative.

Health can suffer through repressed emotions. Sickness can occur in the women in one's life. Bereavement and even death can occur under difficult aspects (which should never be forecast, of course, because it is impossible to be absolutely certain). Problems with the skin, kidneys, a lowered immune system response, and depression are all possible. One client had the skin complaint psoriasis for the first time. Exercise is the great antidote to most of the health problems that can come along, because it counteracts the sluggishness of Saturn and lifts the spirits; but, of course, the person doesn't feel like exercising if he is depressed. Something with structure, like regular visits to a gym, or even establishing a small gym at home and setting

the stopwatch for the same time every day, is a very Saturnian way of coping.

Clients' experiences ranged from being very favorable to experiencing extreme loss. More money, better relationships, and advancement in life can be achieved, but it is not an overnight process—Saturn needs time. A client of mine had to put her children into care because of a health problem. Others had problems finding daycare providers to care for their children while they worked. One lady, the wife of a Methodist minister, was able to acquire her first real home. When her husband retired, they bought the house together, decorated it, organized their finances, and found they were able to travel. They had previously been provided with church residences they didn't always like. Their relationship deepened and matured, and they found they had time to share many experiences together. Formerly they had given all their energy to their church and community and had little left over for themselves. Her natal Saturn was in the fourth house.

Saturn is always the teacher and is exalted in Libra. This progression is able to demonstrate the discipline needed in relationships. You are shown how unnecessary it is to take it out on your partner when you are very tired, for instance, or not to spend money on yourself when someone in the family needs something more urgently than you. If a friend buys a painting you don't like, you aren't brutally honest if you care about the relationship. Very few people realize just how much discipline is needed in relationships. This combination teaches this.

Remember that the "event" of Saturn progressions can come at the very last minute of the separating aspect. For example, progressed Venus approaching the conjunction of the natal Saturn at 19°32' Aquarius. The meaning of the progression, or the action, can happen at 20°32' or even a minute or two past the contact. If it were a Venus/Uranus progression, the action of Uranus would be stimulated

and might happen with Venus at 18°33' Aquarius. Mars, like Uranus, also acts immediately.

Venus-Uranus Progressed Aspects

Sudden, surprising, exciting, unusual, and unstable love relationships happen under this combination. As always, Uranus is trying to demonstrate what it's like to be true to oneself, to have unhampered self-expression. In easy angles, the person's actions tend not to contravene accepted convention, but difficult aspects incline him to flout society's standards, which can cause immense disruptions in the personal life.

Because Venus is involved, creativity can be expressed vividly and in unusual ways and bring unusual results. A teenage client of mine went to an international chess competition after being "discovered."

The social life receives a tremendous fillip. If a new relationship occurs, the partner is usually from a very different background or country, or there is a big age difference. This happens because under Uranus' influence, a window opens on an aspect of life that has not been experienced before, and this reveals unexplored talents in the person with this progression.

Arousal in sex and love is instantaneous and can lead the person into a lot of misadventures. This is emphasized if these two planets are linked natively, even with the easy aspects. Impulsiveness and excitability can get quite out of hand. I remember one young client saying he really feared he would say "yes" to every flirtatious woman at a party. Relationships can be entered into suddenly and terminated just as suddenly. Uranus' self-willed, egocentric properties are never far away, and if the rhythms of life are upset too much, the rhythms of the body can start to cause problems. The strong, hardly controllable tension can take its toll on the physique.

Occasionally, a relationship formed under this progression lasts if the couple allow themselves the freedom to be unusual and let the

partnership express itself in its own way. For instance, the couple may live in their own homes and see each other frequently, but you won't know until time has passed whether it will last beyond the progressed-aspect contact. Everyone thinks initially that "this is it," especially if they're young and haven't much life experiences upon which to call. Apart from relationships, this is a marvelously sociable time. Venus with Uranus enhances any social tendencies.

The health is subject to all the troubles strong emotions can bring—skin complaints, nervous troubles, heart arrhythmias and breathing disturbances. There can be kidney troubles and circulatory blockages. As always with Uranus, acupuncture is a good solution. Meditation also helps calm down the whole system. The balance of the autonomic nervous system can be displaced. Women connected with the person with this progression may have unusual complaints, and unusual events happen in their lives during this period.

My clients had an extraordinary range of experiences, including winning a kite-flying competition at the City of Sydney Festival, divorce, marriage (the couple lived in different countries due to their career goals), desertions, and confinement in prison. Two grandparents took over raising their grandchildren when their single-parent son contracted AIDS. He had previously "come out" and left his wife. Another client contracted malaria while on holiday in Thailand and had difficulty getting proper diagnosis when she returned to Australia. All manner of artistic ventures were successfully undertaken, including music and dancing, such as flamenco and tap dancing.

Venus-Neptune Progressed Aspects

This is a dreamy, romantic combination and can be carried to such extremes that the imagination can play tricks on you. You may really become to believe the loved person has all the qualities of your imagined ideal man or woman. The epitome of this is the medieval troubadour playing his lute below the window of a beautiful young

women who lets down her long hair. In myths, it is Tristan and Isolde, Abelard and Eloise, and Romeo and Juliet. It is the classic tale of Rumpelstiltskin, the ugly, unfinished person (you or me) wooing the glorious maiden or youth (the beloved). If the union is consummated in hot, sweaty, human coupling, the relationship dies because 75 percent of it is in the imagination and not meant for practical realities. This can lead to a refined, unselfish, even platonic romantic love affair that may extend beyond this progression, or the person may become very disillusioned because the loved one does not live up to Neptune's grand expectations and unrealistic ideals.

Any kind of creativity can be very rewarding if you get around to expressing it. Neptune's influence can evaporate your energy before you have even begun. Artistic expression is the one area where the feet can leave the ground and the soaring imagination can take over. I had a client with a natal Venus/Neptune square who designed stage scenery for ballets. When Neptune progressed to exactitude of this square, he produced his finest work.

This combination can also result in altruistic and unselfish behavior in work, relationships, or even leisure. One client took a paraplegic person to the local swimming pool three times a week. The danger here is that you can give too much, leaving you feeling martyred and resentful. On the other hand, people have been known to achieve a state of ecstasy with Venus/Neptune combinations. It can be in religious or musical areas, or they may feel a sense of oneness with nature and the universe. Dancing is a good occupation to develop. As with Venus/Uranus, there is increased popularity, especially with women. A client with progressed Jupiter square her Ascendant, in addition to this Venus/Neptune combination, developed a strategy. She loved eating, drinking, and sociable times. She did all of this and then danced six hours a week to keep her weight under control. She became a flamenco instructor.

If Neptune's influence gets out of hand, there can be financial disaster or loss through ill-thought-out schemes. Emotional suffering, because of loss through love or bereavement, is particularly keen, and can result in illness that it is difficult to diagnose because it doesn't seem to have a cause; it is often psychosomatic. Romantic suffering usually has a strong egoistic component because Neptune progressions and transits deny ego fulfillment. Nevertheless, it is just as keenly felt; but if your clients know this, it helps to get the ego in proper perspective. For instance, one client of mine had a relationship with the daughter of a director of his stockbroking firm. Part of his loss was the loss of prestige when the relationship folded because of her position and what he felt he had gained in the eyes of his colleagues through having the relationship in the first place.

Because of the emotional problems just discussed, health can suffer in the form of infections in the throat, and skin and kidney complaints. Blood poisoning, boils, digestive and bowel problems, and nervous troubles can occur. The latter only happens when there are concurring progressions.

My clients produced beautiful works of art as a result of occupations ranging from enameling, pottery, and music, to dancing and acting. One client taught yoga. Many clients traveled, one or two married, one or two were bereaved, births occurred, unusual incidences in the lives of the women in one's family were prevalent, and one person won the lottery. Another client lost all his money in the October 1987 stock market crash. Many clients had unhappy love affairs; in fact, this was the most common manifestation. One or two gained longed-for positions, such as a job working for Community Aid abroad and a high-powered financial executive position.

Venus-Pluto Progressed Aspects

This also bring love affairs, but of such intensity that all else in the life is left to get along as best it can. This happens because this com-

bination is a form of escape, and, as a result, it has caused havoc in the lives of my clients. I think it has brought more people to my door than any other progression. One big difference from Venus/Neptune combinations is that Venus/Pluto produces a lustful, passionate, earthy, and strongly emotional relationship. The troubadour would shin up her hair, not stay outside her window playing his lute.

Psychologically, you fall in love with qualities in yourself that you can't normally see. By projecting these onto another person—a lover—you can obtain more understanding of the way you relate. Do you want to possess or control the loved one? Do you give as much as you take? Is it just passion and sex you are after, or are you addicted to excitement? Under this progression, any inclination by either party to manipulate or try to possess the other is revealed in all its glory and can cause immense problems. The key of this combination is the power of love or the love of power.

Artistically, this period can be magical. Anything musical has an emotional intensity that can take you heavenward. Pluto power gets into the corporate workplace, and the tendency to manipulate or control other people in order to gain what you want will be exposed. Alternatively, as the Plutonic influence can be used for extremely good purposes (Pluto is the planet of extremes), the desires of the group can democratically be put into practice, and reform of the workplace can work well resulting in unusual popularity and balanced power for you. This period can produce chaos or superb reform in the areas mentioned. Occasionally it can produce both, the good after the bad.

Health can produce tumors, a lowered autoimmune response, skin troubles, herpes, urogenital infections, kidney and throat troubles, blood poisoning, the onset of menstruation or menopause, and really troublesome allergies.

Here are two examples from my clients' histories. One lady became obsessed with the idea that her husband was having an affair.

She took unauthorized time from work to watch him (Scorpicion traits of jealousy). Her behavior was so erratic that she lost her job. She left her home, became slovenly, and neglected her children. She caused so much trouble that her husband finally left her. He was not having an affair, he had merely met a newly found cousin, visiting her city just twice. Her teenage children blamed her and hated her. It took her four years to regain their affection and begin a new relationship. Her marriage and family situation was in the proverbial Plutonic ashes situation, but she had the phoenix rising. She began a new life after uncovering her deep, basic insecurities, the residual from an abused childhood. She did need months of psychotherapy, but she found her feet again.

The other example was a client with natal Pluto on the Midheaven who organized resistance to unfair workplace reforms in his job. He “took on” senior management fairly and justified his actions logically. He was sure he would be sacked, but he wasn’t. He gained the confidence of everyone in the end because he was using his newfound power on behalf of others and was operating from correct Plutonic principles.

Mars Progressed Aspects

Mars provides the energy to get things done. It promotes the survival of the fittest and therefore directs evolution toward perfection, though this is the result rather than the aim. It also brings about immense creativity because the same energy is used by species to ensure that their fittest members procreate. In humans this results in the invention of gadgets and technology processes for war. From the longbow to the tank, from the airplane to the submarine and eventually to space travel, more has been invented as a result of war than for just about anything else. Mars is survival, fight rather than flight, though its two moons, Phobos and Deimos, mean “fear” and “panic,” named after the horses of the Roman god of war. Mars is the

energy used by the individual in any species to maintain integrity in the face of threat and therefore helps to maintain the true nature of everything. Mars can be self-sacrificing, but only for the survival of the species or of one’s young. Mars in men’s charts indicates how they go about attracting women—in Leo, with a splash and an Alfa Romeo, and in Virgo, by being a handyman, and so on. Mars in women’s charts shows what they find attractive—in Libra, sociability and conversation, in Gemini, his conversation, and in Cancer, his nurturing qualities for the future progeny.

Martian energy can get out of hand and lead to combativeness, brutality, immense competitiveness, or, in Capricorn, it can keep on keeping on long after everyone else has gone home. Mars energy represents the true individualist, not the Jupiterian seeker after freedom. An adequately strong Mars just wants to get on with the job at hand. Competition is just a means to test himself and his own strength. Mars is necessary for sex; only those who are sure of their special individual qualities are capable of relating to another satisfactorily. Love and hate are intertwined, just as Mars is with Venus. Indifference is the real enemy.

Mars-Jupiter Progressed Aspects

This is very beneficial progression; even in difficult aspect, it is an interesting, active period. It stimulates energetic, enterprising self-expression. Indeed, the physical health is usually good and you feel strong and vigorous. It is good to get regular exercise or take up a sport under this aspect, not for prophylactic measures, but for fun and to provide an outlet for the immense energy. It is excellent for marriage and for giving birth. The muscles and breathing work well in both mother and child. The test of this progression is to temper the enthusiasm with wise judgment. If you do not, the exuberance can lead to your taking on too much work, too many projects (a client of mine had triplets, which was going a bit far, she said), and to promising too much and not being able to keep those promises.

Much can be accomplished. If you have any hangups about driving or doing Martian activities such as adventurous travel or sporting activities, now is the time to have a go. A client's teenage son, who was being bullied at school, took up jujitsu, which fulfilled this aspect nicely. There are tremendous opportunities for getting ahead in life in the relevant house areas of Scorpio and Aries. In Scorpio, Mars is the strategist. You can use your increased confidence to gain the cooperation of others to help you in your chosen tasks and inspire them with your drive and initiative, or you can exhibit rash, arrogant behavior that is uncontrolled and impulsive, thus repelling other people.

You have the opportunity to invest wisely and financially plan your future. This is often a good time to borrow as a means of expanding a business. Your social life is excellent, and generally it's an expansive period when you can widen your horizons to take in more of life, to travel, and to enjoy sex. On the other hand, there can be huge financial loss due to overoptimism and an "I-can't-go-wrong" attitude. Some people simply can't take advice at this time. If either planet is in hard natal aspect, prudence and discretion are absolutely necessary during this period.

Health mishaps can include accidents and injuries and difficulties with the liver due to drinking too much alcohol. There can be sudden infections, especially in wounds.

My clients' experiences included many marriages and births, a skiing accident with a compound fracture of the leg and ankle, losing a great deal of money on the stock exchange, winning a scholarship to an overseas university, carrying out a lecture tour, winning an important car rally, starting a business (one started an astrology school), learning to drive again after a bad accident two years prior, putting a great deal of money into a religious group and then finding out he wanted to leave but couldn't get his money back, death of a father who had been ill for a long time, and a diving accident in which the

person nearly drowned (the client didn't pay attention to detailed instructions).

Mars-Saturn Progressed Aspects

The flavor has changed totally from the previous progression. Far from fortunate action of the Mars/Jupiter aspect, Mars/Saturn means you work hard for what you achieve; however, it bestows stamina, determination, and staying power. It can be Mars energy very constructively applied, and, as a result, steady progress can be made that is not of the flamboyant variety, but is consistently solid. The ambitions may be realized through this constructively applied exertion and through concentrating on essentials and dispensing with anything else. One can clear the ground for new ventures that need solid work or research to get them going. Painstaking work that requires great attention to detail may be undertaken at this time.

The negative side of this period, if the aspects are difficult natively or in the progression, can encourage the person to inhibit his anger and his extreme frustration. Work has to be undertaken and it can be laborious, hard, dangerous, or dirty. As a result, the person can become passive-aggressive, hard, bitter, intolerant, and quarrelsome. I recommend consistent exercise, adequate sleep, and time for rest and recreation, which isn't always possible as the need to get the work done may be great. Pressure from those in authority at work is common. Redundancies at work occur under this aspect. Several of my clients were compelled to work long hours without extra money or promotion. They knew they would lose their jobs if they didn't do it.

This load can interfere with domestic life and relationships, and can manifest through the father or the son who may go through hard times. There can be loss of money or loss of property, and the frustration can cause health problems if an exercise regime is not initiated. The person can display cold, cruel anger toward anyone who frustrates him.

Health problems can include broken bones, accidents, a chronic complaint or a persistent infection—one client had a hip replacement that became infected. Another young client was told she had rheumatoid arthritis. Progressed, difficult Ascendant aspects generally concur if anything serious is diagnosed.

Clients' experiences included health problems, a car accident, work problems, chronic stress, strained relationships with men, the father, or people at work, achieving real and lasting accomplishments such as a six-hour daily practice regime for many months before a successful music concert tour, building a house (Saturn has strong connections with property), submitting a large stone sculpture for an urban competition, and completing an arduous building apprenticeship, which the client nearly gave up several times.

I generally advise clients that the reward of patience is patience—not my words. Much can be accomplished if they know what is in store and can plan carefully for future years.

Mars-Uranus Progressed Aspects

The drive for absolute independence is so great under this aspect that when this progression first affects the person, it invariably causes a lot of upset in the relevant house areas or in those opposite. It is good to forewarn your clients if this occurs to them so that they can positively direct the energy. It is a good time to learn to drive, to fly, or to do any sport. If the person feels "electrified," as one of my clients put it, acupuncture can balance the energy in the body.

Self-assertive, pioneering, creative projects are ideal, and success can be obtained in a relatively short space of time. Some of my clients formed their own electronic or computer companies under this aspect. Anything concerning music that involves electronic, rock, or drumming media is enhanced. There is great resourcefulness, and the sheer force of personal magnetism lends itself to entrepreneurial activities. It is also a good time to involve oneself with machinery or mechanical implements. If the aspects are difficult, beware of acci-

dents. If opportunity knocks at this time, the person is generally willing to take full advantage of it. Originality expressed in a practical manner should be the aim.

Old conditions may break up as a prelude to the person entering new phases in life. These changes happen suddenly and often alter values and preconceived notions. The speed of events can almost take one's breath away. Travel, often undertaken at short notice, is beneficial for work or pleasure. Marriage and births occur, but, interestingly, I have found from talking to clients that, before the advent of modern gynecological practices, births during this period were often breech.

It will be obvious now that, negatively expressed, the energy of this progression will be displayed as wilfulness, eccentricity, selfishness, excitability, and a determined obstinacy to go ahead in the face of all advice and opposition. This can cause problems, as can the subtle inner tension that everyone around can feel. The nervous tension can manifest as a lack of tact, autocratic behavior, and ultimately loss of love, partners, and prestige at work. There can be awkward situations involving the opposite sex—one of my clients had tremendous battles with her Moslem father who adhered to the beliefs and customs of his old country while his daughter wanted to date guys in Western fashion. One client's partner eloped with his best friend.

Healthwise, this aspect can manifest as accidents through fire, electrical apparatus, and machinery, motor and airplane accidents, torn muscles and ligaments, and infections and fluid on the knees resulting in surgery. One client exhibited all the symptoms of heart failure only to find they were caused by extreme tension. His daughter had left home to study art, which he considered a bad career. He had a grand cross that was triggered, bringing problems in many areas.

Mars-Neptune Progressed Aspects

This is not a time to initiate projects for yourself. This aspect works best if you expend energy on helping other people or a business that benefits many people. Neptune and Mars are not very compatible.

Surprisingly, if you do put Martian drive and initiative to work for the common interest, you can gain much personal satisfaction and esteem. If you do things for purely selfish reasons, the rug will be pulled out from under you. Use diplomacy and practice strategy in your approach to any problems.

Retirement from active work often occurs. There are feelings of weakness or an inability to cope with the pace of life at this time. Some people are tempted to take the dishonest approach because they don't feel they have enough courage to be open about problems. There can be surges of emotion and the person can get carried away on some impulsive course of action, only to find himself left high and dry with the realization that the project was ill-advised. Mars energy initiates things and once the first wave of enthusiasm has passed, the person can find he has no energy whatsoever to complete the task. Some people aim for tremendous self-gratification in sex or drugs, and teenagers get in the wrong company at this time. Self-indulgence is carried to the extreme. Victimization can occur at work because the person unknowingly arouses the enmity of others, usually by being secretly resentful. Or the person complains a lot and criticizes others as a means of (he thinks) promoting himself. I advise clients who find they have made false moves under this aspect to cut their losses quickly and get on with something else.

Health problems include bowel infections, especially when traveling, food poisoning, multiple sclerosis and wasting diseases of the muscles, paralysis of limbs, and drug problems. Even prescribed medicine may cause allergic reactions. Chronic fatigue syndrome and nervous worries can occur.

Clients' experiences included sea cruises (Neptune indicates a desire for far horizons), drug problems, losing one's position in the line of promotion at work, taking up dancing, marriages, being ordained as a minister of a Christian church, creating an organization to help street children in Vietnam, joining a welfare organization to

provide clothing and shelter for the homeless, taking up painting, death of parents, and death of a young son.

Mars-Pluto Progressed Aspects

This provides far more energy than the previous combination. It represents raw power. Many of the old books say Mars is the lower octave of Pluto. I take this to mean that Mars is the conscious "I act" while Pluto's evolutionary and developmental drives and urges have their origin in the unconscious. Together they mean achievement, a great leap forward in consciously deciding to develop any talents, traits, or drives of which we have not been previously aware, and which can emerge at this time. These may be negative traits that have been holding us back, so we are made to look at them. Creative talents may emerge of which we were completely unaware. Pluto always works with other planets, to bring into conscious awareness something that has been unconscious.

With Mars, involved, selfish, egocentric drives may manifest. Or, if you have been a passive, unassertive person, you could find you have the courage to go after what you want and learn how to develop yourself. This progression can mean drive, initiative, success against all odds, struggles with others, immense striving to fulfill your ambitions, hard work, and, if you go too far too fast, ruthless confrontations, aggression, brutality, and conflict. One is aware of the choices with this combination. As always when Pluto is involved, you should examine your true motives if you are confronted by other people. This can also be expressed as desire for sexual power and passion without too much love. It is an egocentric, jealous combination.

I advise clients to exercise well, to make sure they approve of the principles on which they are acting, and to examine the use of psychological force and ask themselves if they are being considerate toward others. This is a fanatical combination, and during this period, some of my clients were confronted by religious pressure from other people.

Health can be excellent if you mobilize your energy. Organ transplants and obtaining the longed-for kidney happened to one person. Septicemia, accidents—this aspect denotes physical pain—surgical operations, boils, AIDS, obtaining artificial limbs or teeth, and sexually transmitted diseases are all a possibility.

Clients had all manner of experiences, including rape, union black-banning work, fights with employers, marriage, death and birth, financial crises (examine the Scorpio and Taurus houses especially, as well as the Aries house), building a house, going to war, and a teenage son committing suicide. Many initiated enterprises that required long hours and hard work.

Jupiter Progressed Aspects

Under any Jupiter influence, one feels good. Life has a bounce and joy to it. Jupiter has been defined as the expectation that life will reward our best efforts. This influence allows us to expand our horizons, to experience much more of life and gain wider experience in study, sport, or travel, all of which result in gaining further education. This educating aspect means we can give to others, or be educated ourselves, or both. We feel much more sociable anyway. This Jupiterian influence can expand the mind and the body to the extent that one becomes scattered, restless, and unconcentrated. You can also become grossly overweight. If you don't overdo things, it will enable you to integrate what you learn into the context of your own life. We can expand the sphere in which we live and move on because we have more knowledge of what is possible. Obviously, without boundaries being drawn, we won't be able to incorporate what we learn because we will be too busy trying to take in more and more. This is the danger under a Jupiter progression. We want to be important—but can become self-important—and we want to own more and more, and at the end of the period, we realize that we have been extremely self-indulgent instead of wise. Under a Jupiter progression,

we really search out activities that assist us in the “getting of wisdom” in the most enjoyable way.

Jupiter-Saturn Progressed Aspects

This is the combination we seek in behavior and advice from our father. It is justice tempered with wisdom, the ability to experience more of the world without overdoing it, to see reality for what it is but not become confined or rigid. It is obviously a good time to make wise judgments, especially in business and financial affairs. Solid growth that doesn't disintegrate after the aspect has passed should be the aim at this time.

The downside occurs when balance is not obtained. There can be mood swings between extreme optimism and extreme pessimism, which results in great restlessness. The ability to proceed cautiously flies out of the window, and the result is great impatience. It can feel as if you could take off and do what you want to do, especially in the entrepreneurial field, but that the ultimate wet blanket hangs over you, preventing you from having a go. This is your own inner voice of conservatism and fear. Balance and organization are the answer, and, again, use up the restless energy in travel, sport, or exercise. Hard work and integrity do bring results. Undertake increased responsibilities and there won't be too much time to feel restless. Thinking logically about what you want to do is recommended; try not to be swayed by the surges of emotion that Jupiter can encourage.

If the negative side is dominant, there can be missed opportunities caused by the person being too cautious and not taking the initiative when the opportunity arises, or by being too tight with money. If Jupiter is weak in the natal chart, financial instability and loss through unwise speculation can occur. There can be confrontations with the law. Again, beware of joining extreme religious groups and giving them money, as happened to one of my clients. The father can either suffer or have a prosperous time depending on the natal and progressed aspects.

The health can be affected by problems with the lungs, liver, and gall bladder. A chronic disease may be revealed. Too much drinking or eating rich foods can make one feel very sluggish during this period. The liver is Jupiter's organ, so boozing sessions will certainly undermine its role in the body.

Clients' experiences included appointments in academia, appointments to the boards of companies, a successful political campaign, the death of the father, establishing a rural property, travel, breaking a leg while on holiday, going off to an ashram in Indonesia for a month, and a successful lawsuit.

Jupiter-Uranus Progressed Aspects

This combination brings a strong desire for independence; the person may ignore all current responsibilities. For instance, adultery is sometimes a reaction to this aspect. If a balance can be struck, many opportunities to achieve the much-wanted freedom arise. Sudden flashes of intuition enable the person to see possibilities for the way ahead. This is a very intuitive combination. There is luck and optimism, plus the ability to have fortunate ideas and the organizational capacity to bring those dreams into reality. You can imbue others with the dynamic enthusiasm you feel at this time, so success in traveling, computing, teaching, law, and studies in unusual subjects and business matters is possible. Whatever the incidents, you can expect life to present more opportunities for expansion as you become exposed to the ideas and possibilities inherent in this period. The danger is that your enthusiasm will go overboard and money and time may be invested in short-lived ventures and then, when the optimism dries up or there are problems, your interest in them will collapse and they will fail through lack of application.

You may oppose someone's ideas even though you do not speak from real conviction. There is an obstinacy in the nature at this time, also a tendency to magnify or exaggerate things and to be tactless.

You can gain authority, but then misuse it. The inner tension can suddenly be released, which is why many of the old books call this the "thank the Lord" combination. Often the person does not realize just how much tension he is carrying until the moment of relaxation. This happened to my client when he won his lawsuit.

The health may be affected by disorders of the liver. Jupiter/Uranus inclines to convulsions or colic spasms. Have yourself checked for diabetes and high blood pressure if there is any sign of these complaints.

Clients' experiences included submitting an invention, patenting it, and seeing it through to production, becoming a drummer in a band, and organizing a series of seminars as part of one's own business and then selling the course to large corporations. Other experiences included organizing a free course for the University of the Third Age (for people over age sixty), studying astrology, marriage, winning a lawsuit against the siting of electricity cables, losing money on the stock market, being held up by bandits while traveling in Africa (in the 1980s), and having an affair with someone else's spouse.

Jupiter-Neptune Progressed Aspects

Generosity and compassion are stimulated by this combination. The trick is to choose the right people and passions on which to bestow one's fine feelings and generous impulses. Through these actions, one can become popular and gain prestige. During the period of this progression, financial affairs can improve through investing in large-scale enterprises because the person develops an uncanny ability to choose wisely or to see trends accurately. The emotions expand, resulting in a time of great joy because of romance, marriage, or the birth of children or grandchildren. Misuse of these impulses results in bestowing the affections on inappropriate people. The imagination is activated, and this is can be expressed creatively in art or music or can be used for business connected with artistic activities. It can also be expressed

in metaphysical subjects or to produce ideas for the betterment of humanity. A client worked for Community Aid Abroad, another for young people on drugs. Watch out for a tendency to ignore the bread-and-butter realities of life, like remembering to pay the phone and electricity bills.

One can dream one's time away during this period visualizing impractical ventures and then go off halfcocked to put them into practice, only to see them fail. Self-aggrandizement is a possibility, as is ego inflation through renunciation, leading to self-exaltation. One can have an inflated opinion of one's capabilities that reverberates with disastrous results. Watch out for the seductiveness of Neptune's influence in relationships, financial matters, and impractical dreams. Examine the Pisces house, especially, because both planets (Neptune and Jupiter) rule this sign. Practical common sense of the Saturn variety is a good antidote to inflated emotions. Don't rely on hunches. I have seen clients experience some pretty disastrous situations, particularly if they are relatively young before the first Saturn return, because their visions and ideas were impractical and they did not have their feet on the ground. The overexpansion of Jupiter combines with Neptunian ideas that seem so real at the time.

The health can suffer from nervous troubles and intestinal complaints, or an increase in alcohol or rich food can cause problems. There may be accidents involving chemicals or gas. At least three clients were wrongly diagnosed under this combination. Malnutrition due to drugs and overdoses can occur.

My clients suffered more than they gained under this progressed aspect, mostly due to a false sense of happiness. Two clients married and one later separated, one set up a business venture overseas which became problematical, two came unstuck investing money on behalf of religious institutions, several lost money on their own investments, one or two people had really unusual but enjoyable travel experi-

ences, one had strange experiences involving corruption in his job in an embassy overseas, another contracted an unusual ailment while traveling, and another client made the wrong decision to sue (including getting the wrong advice), which resulted in a complex legal muddle.

Jupiter-Pluto Progressed Aspects

This is a powerful period in the life that can be used very constructively for self-improvement or to progress in one's affairs, but it can also involve the misuse of power. You can think you are more powerful and important than you really are, especially if you are already working in a managerial capacity.

If there are inherent abilities in the financial or organizational fields, this can be an excellent time to develop these skills or teach them to others; for example, in conference seminars or by running courses for companies. You will be prepared to put a great deal of energy into achieving success. Ambition is stimulated. The trick is to "think big" but not "too big" and to obtain a balance in your affairs. You have to discover where you can use the power to improve yourself as a person. Several clients of mine participated in Stephen Covey seminars using his book *The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People*.

Of course, as ever under Jupiter's influence, you are liable to squander and speculate your resources, and it is possible to lose everything because this is a combination that does not do anything by halves. There is the ability to see several layers below the surface psychologically, so loss should not occur unless the exuberance and optimism go completely wild. This is also the combination for bigotry and fanaticism, and the person can appear particularly obnoxious to others when propagating his political views and religious beliefs as if there were no others.

As usual, examine the relevant natal houses, the opposite houses, and the houses these planets occupy natively.

Health is usually good, but, again, the liver is vulnerable. This is a time to regenerate any part of the body that has been weak. It can also be a time when one has to receive a blood transfusion.

Clients had good times with this combination. Their experiences include learning, traveling, lecturing, and improving their minds through study at home and overseas. One client's husband committed suicide when his business venture failed, resulting in a big loss of money. One or two clients studied the stock market in-depth and invested wisely.

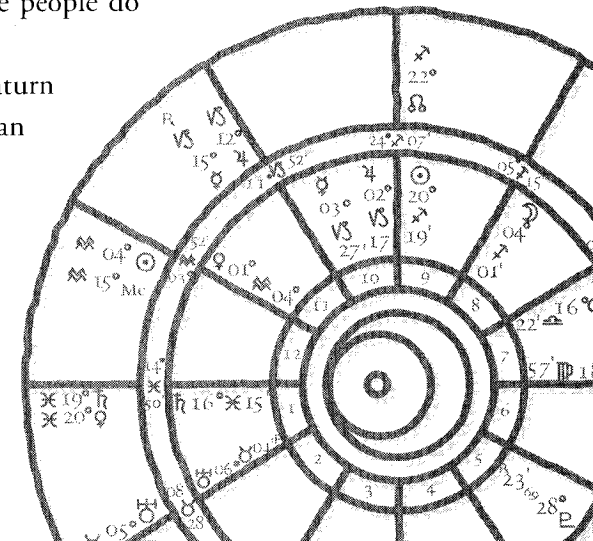
Now we'll move on to the outer planet progressions, which, although generational to some degree, if they are strongly placed in the natal chart, have wide-ranging personal effects in individual lives.

The Outer Planetary Progressed Aspects

Saturn's Progressed Aspects

Strictly speaking, Saturn is not an outer planet; it represents the boundary between the personal and the collective. Saturn is important because it guards the ego (Sun) until it is strong enough to adequately perform in the world. In this way, Saturn represents maturity and wisdom. If Uranus, Neptune, and Pluto flooded into the personal unconscious without the help of Saturn to maintain an adequate boundary, and we don't have a realistic sense of self, we would go mad. Some people do go mad when this happens.

Because of the boundary Saturn maintains, the planet's energy can be described as being in polarity with all the personal planets. It is the check and balance against which we can measure our sense of the personal



vis-a-vis societal reality, what is possible and what is impossible in our particular corner of the world. It enables us to become more mature and responsible and less fearful and guilt-ridden about making mistakes. We need to make mistakes in order to learn.

Saturn's influence on the relationship of the individual to society and to collective situations in life is extremely important. Our top priority, under Saturn, is to know our limitations and to accept them. Saturn provides the structure of our lives, defines our methods of operation, and gives us the ability to concentrate on our particular theme through a series of tests—at ages fourteen, twenty-nine, forty-two, and fifty-eight, in particular—and during times when Saturn aspects our personal planets. The more we take on responsibilities and accept challenges to the structure of our lives as facts of life, the stronger we, and our ego, become. We come to better understand the meaning and limitations of the qualities of any planet aspected by Saturn in a progression.

The danger with Saturn is the fear it engenders that causes us to become rigid and crystallize certain aspects of our lives. I believe Saturn always brings us what we truly want, not what we think we want, and herein lies the suffering we can feel at the time of a Saturn progression. Because we didn't understand the rules at some stage, or didn't understand that everyone has to accept limits in certain areas of life, we were dealt what we thought was a blow to our life structure. The next time Saturn comes around, we are so scared that we fortify the structure like the walls of a castle and rigidly stay inside. The problem is that we cannot see much of the world from a fortified castle. We are safe for the time being, but that's all, and it's very boring.

So the trick is to concentrate on the trees in the woods and do the best you can. You may find that your best can be very good. Don't go for big pictures, but be content with small things well done. We don't need structure and fortified walls in our castle unless there really is an

enemy attacking. We need to feel it is safe to extend ourselves to our personal limits, then pull back when we reach the boundaries of what it is possible for us to do. If we don't try things out, we will never learn what our personal limitations are. In other words, we have to make mistakes in order to learn. Strongly Saturnian people generally don't allow themselves to make mistakes.

Here is a real-world example. Say you are a qualified economist and you are promoted at age twenty-nine to a section manager position with many staff under you, which you accept. Because of the person you are, with your aspects to Saturn, you are not a particularly good manager. Staff members come to you with problems that you have trouble handling. You are so tired that you crawl home from work and don't have much time for your social life. After a while you realize you would much prefer to beaver away on your own, with your own projects. Finally, your staff members combine to complain to the general manager that you are not handling the section very well.

Will you admit that you are not cut out to be a manager, but had to have a go? Will you ask for an interesting, responsible project that you can work on alone instead? Will you vow never again to accept a promotion and never apply for a more responsible job? Or will you recognize your deficiencies and undertake lengthy study for a management qualification in your spare time? Any or none of these scenarios may be correct for you. You have been shown an aspect of yourself. Now you must make a wise judgment, using your recently gained self-knowledge, about which direction you should take without damming yourself forever as a result of one unsuccessful period in your life.

This is Saturnian energy at work in the area of Saturn—work. At times of Saturn's transits and progressions, we are made to focus on the areas in which we need to work the most, our weakest areas natally.

Saturn-Uranus Progressed Aspects

Uranus is the drastic, sudden, and disruptive antidote to Saturn. It is like taking a very strong laxative after having major constipation problems. Its energy is totally disruptive to structure, rigidity, and crystallization, so this combination creates a major tension in the life as the desire for freedom from restrictions asserts itself. There can be sudden disruptions and separations from circumstances and from people who are seen as holding you back. The danger is of throwing the baby out with the bath water. If you don't do this, but persevere in the face of extreme tension, there is the ability to achieve much under extremely difficult conditions. A keyword for this combination, well used, is *endurance*. The aim is to get the willpower and determination going and stick to the task at hand, which involves making necessary changes.

If you are thinking of initiating an innovative project, especially one that involves teaching, this is the time to work hard at it. Under this combination, it is possible to make important fundamental changes to your life to prevent it becoming too rigid, crystallized, and lifeless in the relevant areas. Examine the natal house ruled by Aquarius (which both Saturn and Uranus rule), the Leo natal house, and the houses occupied by Saturn and Uranus to help you decide how to channel this challenge of change.

It is possible to improve the financial position by sudden innovative moves that involve structuring long-term investments. You can enlist the support of a group of people, as two of my clients did when restructuring major areas in their businesses. Stubbornly adhering to one's own desires and opinions can bring great opposition. Uranus is a domineering energy, and, combined with Saturn's rigidity, it can be hard for other people to deal with you at this time. There can be reverses in the family fortunes or in the life of the father.

Health of the father or an elderly relative can be bad. Death, bereavement, high blood pressure, heart trouble, arrhythmias, revela-

tion of a chronic illness, loss of circulation to the limbs, surgical operations involving the removal of organs or blockages, amputation, and trouble with the spleen are all possibilities. It can be a time of good health if one undertakes regular physical exercise to deal with the tension.

My clients' experiences include winning the Sydney Festival kite competition, initiating technological change in an electronics firm and in a building firm, computerizing a business which involved many job redundancies for workers, moving into a new home, finding building faults and having to move again, changing schools three times in one year, and solving a difficult mathematical problem on a space project. One or two academics had extremely difficult projects to initiate. One was an astronomer and he had bad weather for weeks and was unable to use his telescope. Several clients walked out of long-term marriages and business partnerships, and one had a successful kidney transplant.

Saturn-Neptune Progressed Aspects

Ideally, this is a blending of the practical with the imaginative ideals of the nature. You can convert what at first might seem to be impossible dreams into practical projects: romance combined with stability and endurance, the impossible dream made real in art, choreography, architecture, and dancing. The ideal romantic relationship can become real and stable. This can be divine inspiration brought to the most prosaic of tasks or tackling the most complex problems in a most practical way. Showing sound common sense in the face of chaotic conditions is another way of using this combination constructively.

As Neptune energies deny the ego its full gratification, work can be carried out for its own sake, not for the reward or accolades it might bring. There is a kind of intuitive foresight in this combination that

works well when applied in the financial field. Investing in Neptune-type businesses like oil, films, and pharmaceutical companies is wise.

Sometimes the sixth sense that Neptune energies bestow can be used to great advantage in astrology, the Alexander technique, or other alternative therapies. Friendships that are out of the ordinary or with someone very different or much older can occur, and these can have a profound effect on the person's future aims and ideals in life.

There is no getting away from the fact that this can be a difficult combination. Let me provide a real-world example of the kind of difficulties I have encountered. At one stage I had several clients, consulting through their relatives, who were agoraphobic—which has been defined as fear of open spaces. Actually, it is fear of having a nervous or panic attack while away from home. Most of these clients had a Neptune/Saturn progression or transit to the Sun, Moon, or Mercury at the time I was approached. With the help of their relatives, I asked them to go out of the house and walk down the path a little further each day until they got to the mailbox or the garage or the street, then come back to the house. They were to note every stick and stone, every snail, every change from the previous day, and write these changes down. Those that really focused on this task didn't have time to let their minds play tricks on them. The initial nervous stimulation had come from nervous exhaustion and then the mind taking over with "what ifs." Slowly, they built up confidence until they realized the problem was their minds tricking them.

This is the kind of blend of concentrated practical approach to problems that has to be achieved when the fear of Saturn is expanded out of all proportion by Neptune. Sometimes the self-denial aspect can take the form of avoiding taking responsibility for oneself, or running away from life. It can all seem too much, so the person can go to an ashram, join a strange cult, give away money, or even go on a hunger strike for an ideal cause that cannot possibly be achieved. This is also a sacrificial combination so the person may take care of

others with no thought for reward. Several of my clients chose to help alcoholics and the homeless under this combination.

If Saturn is too strong, there is a danger of missing opportunities presented during this time, through not listening to one's intuition. As ever with Neptune, there is a danger of deception, fraud, or people misconstruing one's actions. Or the person may present himself as someone he is not.

This is also the sickness combination, and chronic, systemic ailments can occur. Nervous complaints often crop up if the Moon or Mercury are in hard aspects natively. I have also known schizophrenia to manifest because the person swings between the two energies, but this needs to be shown as a possibility in the natal chart. An inability to recognize what is real and what is not real can bring on mental illness.

My clients' experiences included becoming a professional dancer (this is the dancing combination par excellence), buying an antique shop, finding out the mortgage payments had been fraudulently used by a solicitor, losing a job, taking heroin, embezzling company funds, having the home damaged by flood and storm, the family had to go on welfare because the father became chronically sick and couldn't work (this transit was in two of the children's charts), and being taken ill while on a cruise after retiring. Several clients retired from active work (more common with a Mars/Neptune progression), another suffered from agoraphobia, and two students suffered nervous exhaustion after long periods of study.

Saturn-Pluto Progressed Aspects

These two planets have much in common, rigidity being one of them. Generally, the person has to deal with circumstances that have become increasingly rigid and difficult. A client of mine had to look after an elderly parent who had Alzheimer's disease with no help or respite. It does give the ability to endure and persist under extremely difficult circumstances. Sometimes the restriction is due to lack of

finances, but if the period is accepted as one where you have to put your head down, then you can still come out on top.

This combination bestows a tenacity and toughness and a willingness to apply extreme self-discipline. The influence of both planets can frustrate desires and, in this way, can give rise to depression. There is a danger of becoming hard and unfeeling and fanatically sticking to the chosen path even when it is proved unwise to do so. This can apply to one's views on religion or politics or to the particular principles one adopts. It can also apply to relationships. The need for approval can make the person stay in a relationship when it is patently obvious it isn't working and is causing suffering.

An old order of life often ends during this period, and there are fewer resources to deal with this change. Retirement is an example. You do not have the company of former fellow workers and you have to rely on your own inner resources and restructure your life. Saturn/Pluto changes are not sudden and can be planned for. Your freedom of movement can be restricted, but this is not permanent. It is part of a life process. There is a danger that you will rigidly oppose the changes that are obviously going to occur anyway, and this rigidity causes great inner tension. It is better to accept what is happening and work with the changes if you can. Saturnian energies can give structure to the new conditions, which is a more positive approach. Some people ruthlessly discipline themselves at this time, or they can be involved in peculiar circumstances that have to be solved. One client had to cope with the disappearance of a daughter.

Health can suffer through extreme tension; there can be accidents involving broken bones and complaints affecting the teeth, skin, or skeletal system. Arthritis can occur, and genetic diseases of the joints and bones start showing symptoms. Diseases that are difficult to diagnose and cure sometimes arise. Congenital complaints can re-emerge. One client had shingles reemerge. Although Pluto is connected with birth, under this combination the fetus can be deformed.

Clients' experiences included two examples of self-discipline: One was studying for an exam and another was trying to lose twenty kilos of weight. Another client found his new wife had a drug addiction problem and the whole year was hard for him. There can be separation and even death. I had transiting Pluto opposed to Saturn with ninth, fifth, tenth, and third houses involved when I emigrated to Australia. All our friends we'd expected to find from our previous travels around the country had moved from Sydney. We bought a derelict house in a glorious spot, but living in it with a small son was difficult. We didn't have any money, but we survived and came out of with friends, a social life, a lovely home, and a delight in our new country. I wouldn't readily want to go through that period again, but eventually it was immensely productive.

Generally, you can say this combination signifies natural endings, including death, followed by new beginnings. You have to make do with a lot less in finances, emotional support, or material things during the period of transition.

Uranus Progressed Aspects

Uranus is the chaos in the ordered, structured world of Saturn. Its influence drastically intrudes into rigid, crystallized conditions to allow life to begin to move freely again. Its energy is not malefic, as the old books say, but, because it is shocking and sudden, it feels very threatening. Earth types find it very uncomfortable because it threatens the very foundations of their secure existence.

Uranus is more consciousness-expanding than Jupiter, but not in the same way. It is the flash of inspiration that contains a touch of genius and is totally innovative. If one can be flexible enough in life, it will be felt as exhilarating rather than as destructive. It causes extreme nervousness if the structure of one's ego is not mature and flexible enough to withstand a degree of change in one's life. Too much Uranus produces the rebel, the misfit, and the anarchist, and

destroys social order. We do need some structure, but not structure that is rigidly imposed for no good reason.

Uranian energy is very detached, but if one can get into the rhythm of life under its influence in a progression, one will find every day has a lift to it. It is exciting to get out of bed in the morning, and one can relish the thought of an interesting period under any combination with the planet in progression or transit. Uranus is called the antidote to Saturn because most people become content with their lot and stop expanding on the road of life with Saturn. Uranus comes in with a hefty progression and shows you that you are only part of the way along the route, and there is a different view on the horizon.

Earthquakes, cyclones, and storms that destroy our homes and our basic security structure can be Uranian. Causing psychological destruction, as in ending relationships, is also Uranian. A Uranian progression can destroy security without having any apparent purpose, and therefore must be regarded as a fact of life.

Uranus-Neptune Progressed Aspects

This combination does not occur very often because the two planets are both so slow moving. Uranus will probably be within orb of Neptune natively, but the aspect can come into exact contact during the life. I do not have many examples to convey a picture based on experience. The few I have encountered have been transits, and these often make the person want to run away from having to earn money, from a business, the daily grind, and the consumer society, and find somewhere peaceful to think about real values. It inclines one toward the study of astrology, mysticism, and the meaning of life.

A Uranus/Neptune progression or transit can take the form of seeking unusual experiences, so the person may travel to unusual places or seek unusual emotional experiences. Uranus seeks excitement from drugs and Neptune seeks escape from reality through drugs, so this is a danger. Even prescribed medicine must be taken

with care. It is a period when you can develop your intuitive faculties to their fullest extent and gain quite extraordinary perception. I understand being psychic to mean an ability to intuit what a person really thinks and feels apart from what they are consciously expressing. What people say with their mouths is very often the opposite of what they really think and feel. This combination gives the ability to go past the obvious conscious expression and see below the surface. All the outer planets, well expressed, provide this understanding.

This progression, therefore, can indicate progress, whatever that may mean to the individual, and the strength of will to go after what one wants in life through having vision and cognizance of all the circumstances. There can be unusual artistic inspiration in any medium, and an element of novelty or innovation can be brought to many tasks.

Health suffers from upsets to the rhythmic processes of the body. It can affect heartbeat, so there may be heart failure or stroke, and, in the old days, stillborn babies. Asthma, where automatic breathing processes are disrupted, can occur. I have found that hay fever and allergies become apparent under this combination. Sleep apnea (inability to breathe while asleep) occurred in one client, and falling unconscious for a variety of reasons can happen, such as a side effect of a cardiac drug. Another client had late-onset diabetes and went into a coma before it was diagnosed, so get a checkup if there is the remote possibility of this complaint. Nervous exhaustion can occur if the person has come through a prolonged period of strain. Sleep, acupuncture, or herbs can be of benefit. Senility, dementia, or Alzheimer's disease may appear.

Clients traveled, gained great inspiration for certain tasks they wanted to carry out, and became very nervous and sensitive (a sense of foreboding can be present). Others had crazy ideas that were impractical for their lives. One couple retired to the country, a common desire under this combination, only to have the husband become ill.

They found they couldn't afford to come back to the city where all their friends were. Another client had his best friend die, and one can die oneself under this link of planets, but generally this occurs naturally in old age. I recommend taking advice from sensible people or relatives as it can be a very strange time.

Uranus-Pluto Progressed Aspects

This combination produces the revolutionary in a natal chart, so when it is linked by progression or transit, it can indicate revolutionary ideas. Alternatively, the life can undergo a complete revolution at this time. Obviously, people would prefer security to having their lives turned upside down, so this is not regarded as a pleasant experience. Generally, though, old, outworn structures that have been holding you back from really living life fully occur and sweep away the unnecessary impediments, forcing change upon you; therefore, it is possible for astrologers to warn their clients to get into a more flexible attitude of mind and be aware that the changes will eventually open many more windows on life.

After this period, you can evaluate what has passed and you will find you have a much greater understanding of your life and its purpose. This is the combination of matters of "ultimate concern." It is not a trivial time, and the changes that come can enrich your life and make it more worthwhile.

The difficult aspects can even mean you have to cope with war, social unrest, or problems outside your own personal sphere. The changes may be traumatic, but they will happen anyway, so adopting a "flow with it" attitude does help the physical body. There is a strong awareness of purpose and the desire to "ceaselessly toil" to get what you want. This is a combination of endurance and untiring effort, which is good because it uses up the restless energy you may have at this time.

The danger is that you can become fanatical, destructive, or so revolutionary that your ideas are impractical and cannot be implemented; but you will try anyway, upsetting everyone and everything around you. Persuasion rather than coercion should be the goal. Clients with this combination can become reformers or religious fanatics, and have original, innovative ideas and a touch of genius to implement their projects. Unorthodox methods often prove successful, and the person can have sudden flashes of inspiration. Power, and the wise use of it, is often an issue. Uranus/Pluto stimulates the desire for independence and freedom.

A good way to use this time is to turn to anything you have wanted to invent or something that requires detailed research. There can also be opportunities to direct a group in some special way. Dormant qualities of leadership can be developed. As with all outer planetary combinations, the good can be very good and the bad very bad, creating mayhem in your own and other people's lives.

The health suffers through nervous strain and the constant desire to "push" the life along, so breakdowns occur, as well as accidents. Great care should be taken when using machinery of any sort. If a degree of moderation can be maintained, there can be very good health and increased vitality.

The few clients I have seen during this progression included one who invented computer games and another who published small business ideas. One founded a hang-gliding club, and one had a religious conversion. There have been deaths, as well as divorce and one suicide. Of course, for all these there were other progressed aspects that combined at the time. One young client completed her doctoral scientific thesis using the research ability this combination conveys. One qualified psychologist organized a psychotherapy group that met regularly during the three years of exactness of this progressed aspect in his chart. A person who was not a client, but was going through a time

when this natal combination was exact in his progressed chart, led a protest group for his neighborhood when a freeway was to be constructed alongside their houses.

Neptune Progressed Aspects

Saturn represents our structure, the form our society takes, and the rules that society makes in order that we may live in a reasonably safe environment, which allows us to know the rules, to contribute, and to feel secure. Neptune breaks down all of those barriers. If you go all the way with Neptune, you become society's misfit, you take drugs, you don't earn a living, you commit crimes to steal money for your habit—you don't have your feet on the ground. You are spaced-out for much of the time. In order to understand Neptune, you have to play the game of life as though it is real and forever, as though there is an afterlife guaranteed, as though you will be judged and you must be good and obey society's rules . . . but it is all an illusion. All this striving, puffing up the ego, and one-upmanship ultimately has no meaning. Those of you with Saturn and Neptune linked in the opposition or the square will probably understand this. If you do have this combination, the first time it dawns on you in your gut that this is so, you will spend a long time laughing at the cosmic joke.

The best way to use Neptune's progressions is to overcome your fears and turn Neptune's glorious ideals and illusionary qualities into practical possibilities. I remember Loudon Sainthill, who designed the most fantastic (in the dictionary meaning of the word) scenery for the Sadlers Wells and Covent Garden ballets in London. He said that if you don't have these grand illusions and go with them, your backdrop would be just another backdrop. Well used, Neptune's influence takes the concrete out of life, it lifts the spirits. The soaring, imaginative energy is exhilarating, better than any real drug. Dream the impossible dream and turn it into reality, and then you've found Neptune.

With Neptune, you realize you are not your ego; it is only part of you, and you realize its awful limitations. Your ego is one small jot among the billions on the planet, yet it is important because without it you can't even stand up. The problem is you can sacrifice your ego for an ideal only to find out the ideal is an illusion. No wonder Neptune has been called the most difficult planet to understand.

The trick is to understand that the game of life is just that—a game. Play it for all it's worth, laugh, have fun, make money, do your best, but remember that it is always a game. It is easier to allow the negative side to flood into your mind than to use the compassionate, artistic gifts of Neptune. Willpower is the key. Decide what you hope for, then work for it. If the ego is too weak, and many people who have Neptune prominent lack real confidence, you can become a burden and destroy yourself so that you never experience life at all. Spending your life on the streets as a drunk, locked up in jail, or permanently in some euphoric state is a waste, and is bad for society; but most of all it is a crime because you don't fully experience life or gain any wisdom from it.

If life is a game and you are handed a Neptunian pack of cards, how do you go about getting that confidence without falling by the wayside? You play Saturn to the hilt until the ego is strong enough to allow the understanding of Neptune to share some part of your life. By this I mean until you have a roof over your head, money coming in in some form, and you function as a part of society where you live. It is wise not assume you can chase the dreams of your imagination. All will not be well if you do not pay attention to the needs of basic reality. It is no good playing in the band at night and hoping to get engagements if you haven't sorted out means of daily living by training and education. By doing this, you will gain the necessary confidence to go after unworldly things in as ordered a way as you can. Life will provide you with the lessons and tests anyway through the cycles of Saturn. These times will be hard, but if you understand the

structure of Neptune, then it will eventually be possible to express the artistic, compassionate side of your nature. Astrologers can be of enormous assistance to clients during a Neptunian progression.

If the ego is weak, it is extremely hard not to go with the Neptunian side too soon and become involved with pseudo-spiritual movements or achieve ecstasy with drugs before the ego is strong enough to come to grips with “real life.” That, I suppose, can be a fate we all have to deal with, depending on our particular pack of life cards.

During a Neptune progression, there is also a tendency to absorb the emotional atmosphere of the people around you. You are not even consciously aware that you are taking their problems and their emotional states on board. If these are constantly negative you can be adversely affected, to the extent that you may think it is even your fault if those around you are unhappy. Be aware and beware of this tendency.

I have had endless clients affected by the hard times of a Neptune progression. Parents in particular can be eaten up with worry if a son or daughter is going through a Neptunian phase before they have learned to handle their lives or even have any kind of life purpose. Astrologers can help them by explaining the structure of Saturn and Neptune. My description of dealing with agoraphobia is one example, but you have to remember that Saturn is *the* illusion, that our particular brand of reality is the real thing. If you cut yourself off from all that Neptune represents, you can become lifeless, stuck in the concrete of reality, and without hope, faith, and the kind of love Neptune allows us to express for our fellow human beings—the acknowledgment that “there, but for the grace of God, go I.”

Neptune-Pluto Progressed Aspects

I have only studied this combination during transits and seen the sextile come to exactitude in progression. It seems the person is forced to evaluate long-held beliefs or to refine his values many times in life.

Opinions become rigid and then something occurs that forces the person to realize he has been mistaken. The person is shocked or causes shocks to others. Usually, it is through an incident that reveals how far away from the truth his previous views were. Neptune’s perceptions and differing reality constantly reveal the fanaticism of Pluto.

Changes in society can often affect the person personally, making him reevaluate and change his views or adapt his behavior. As always with Pluto, trying to hold on to old attitudes or situations makes the whole business a great deal more psychologically painful. In fact, undergoing or studying psychotherapy is very useful, as this is a time when you can be more in tune with your unconscious mind. This can be a very creative period if the insights are handled in a positive way. Under a Neptune aspect, it is better not to come to any firm conclusions on values or points of view until the progression or transit is out of orb. If you are living with the sextile, you will constantly be forced to recognize new truths about situations and people, but you will be prepared to do this.

This is a very sensitive time both physically and mentally. It feels as if the universe is suddenly expanding, but this is only your perception of it. Having an ideal, and using the energy available under a Pluto progression to work toward it, is a positive way to develop this contact. The only client I can clearly see as being the result of this combination was determined his music was something special and developed his talent until it was widely recognized. You can exude a special “magnetism” that can make you popular at this time; or there can be intricate problems in the life that have to be solved by unusual methods. Under this transit, one or two clients traveled and had peculiar things happen to them while they were abroad. These people went to India to attempt to transcend their own personal values, so I am inclined to think that renunciation, self-discipline, and resignation to something higher than one’s own ego is desired.

If the basic character is unbalanced and the sense of proportion poor, this combination can wreak havoc in the life. Sexual misadventures, taking drugs, coercing others to conform to your views, incurring secret hostility, and having one's defects exposed to others are possibilities. Even if you are basically sound, other people may unjustly accuse you and distort your motives.

With regard to health, you can be allergic to all sorts of substances at this time. Even sticking to your normal diet may bring on an allergy. The clients who went to India all suffered food poisoning and had various types of dysentery. Others who went on a vegetarian diet became anemic. There is an extreme susceptibility to drugs. A person close to me was put on Flagil, which can cause personality changes, but she had to have it to cure amoebic dysentery and became very depressed. Mentally, the nervous constitution may be affected and groundless fears may surface. Wise use of alcohol and drugs is therefore recommended. I have read that warning symptoms of disease can appear because the person has a very developed sixth sense at this time, so take note and get a medical check if you think things are not physically right. I did have two clients with breast lumps; one had a check and one didn't, with drastic consequences for the latter. There were additional progressed aspects for both of them, of course. Another client learned he was HIV positive.

Death and bereavement are also possibilities. Using self-discipline and having a good exercise and diet regime seem to help.

Pluto Progressed Aspects

The controversy is still raging over the Pluto-Charon combination. Some astronomers think of them as a double planet rather than a planet and a moon. They are so small and so far away that even the Hubble space telescope has difficulty seeing them clearly. The sum of their masses is known, but their individual masses are difficult to determine, and it is not expected that this data will be available until

a spacecraft reaches them. Pluto rotates in the opposite direction to most of the other planets, and, like Uranus, the plane of its equator is almost at right angles to the plane of its orbit.

Its moon, Charon, was discovered in 1978 by Jim Christy and pronounced Shahr-en in honor of his wife, Charlene. It was also officially named Charon (pronounced Kair-en) after the mythological figure who ferried the dead across the river Styx to the underworld. Use whichever pronunciation you prefer.

Charon is the largest moon, with respect to its primary planet, in the solar system—a distinction previously held by our Moon. Both Pluto and Charon rotate synchronously, but they keep the same face toward one another, which makes the phases of Charon, as seen from Pluto, very interesting. Charon's radius, mass, density, and composition are still unknown, but its low density suggests it may be similar to Saturn's icy moons.

Astronomers think that Pluto and Triton, Neptune's moon, have some historical connection due to the unusual nature of their orbits and the similarity of their bulk properties. It is now thought that Triton, like Pluto, once moved in an independent orbit around the Sun and was later captured by Neptune. Charon and Triton may be the only remaining bodies of a large class of similar objects, the rest of which were ejected into the Oort cloud as detritus from the formation of the solar system. Pluto is smaller than seven of the solar system's moons.

By progression and transit, Pluto seems to indicate endings and beginnings, death and rebirth. The difficult aspects usually means the person finds it harder to let go of whatever situation or person is no longer necessary for his future life. He also suffers emotionally much more during the progressed period. How difficult the period is depends, as always, on the state and aspects of the natal Pluto. The principle behind this is that the person is putting too much energy into maintaining a situation. If this situation is allowed to end, a

great deal of nervous energy then becomes available for getting on with life. The classic scenario is the love affair about which the person thinks all the time. All sorts of other things in life are allowed to dwindle while the person gives boundless energy to the other person and the affair.

One function in the process of Pluto is important. When the end of a situation occurs, be it a marriage, a love affair, the death of a loved one, retirement, or whatever, it is important to grieve. There are many ways to grieve, and it is wrong to think that the only way is to shed floods of tears. Many people push this process away, the classic English stiff upper lip reaction. It is wise from the mental and physical health point of view to allow maximum sadness to be experienced initially in whatever way suits you. Even the toes can register pain in an emotional crisis. By allowing the maximum amount of pain to occur initially, a shorter length of time is needed to go through the grieving process, and this is better for the psychological well-being of the person. In the Middle East and in India, women are allowed to gather round a dead relative and really shriek their pain to the heavens, which allows everyone to weep and to get angry at their fate. This is very healthy. We need to do this privately for other situations that make us feel acute loss. Beethoven's fist to the heavens when he went deaf is an example of this reaction. Allowing intense grief and anger to be expressed is much easier on the physical body.

The other mechanism to use during Plutonic progressions or transits is glimpsing. When one has left one bank of the river in a life crisis and is in midair, so to speak, before reaching the security of the other bank, it is possible to glimpse the rebirth of the new situation. At first, glimpsing is momentary, and then gradually it comes in stronger and lasts longer. This is an important process and can carry the person through the life crisis. If you can see how to pick up the threads of your life again, just for a second, it brings hope. Next comes that surge of the life will, and the rebirth is not far behind. For

complete healing, time has to pass, of course, but time is the greatest healer.

Pluto may come to make an exact aspect in, say, a T-square, or may change direction, or may be stationary for a period, so the above paragraphs apply at these times.

Counseling

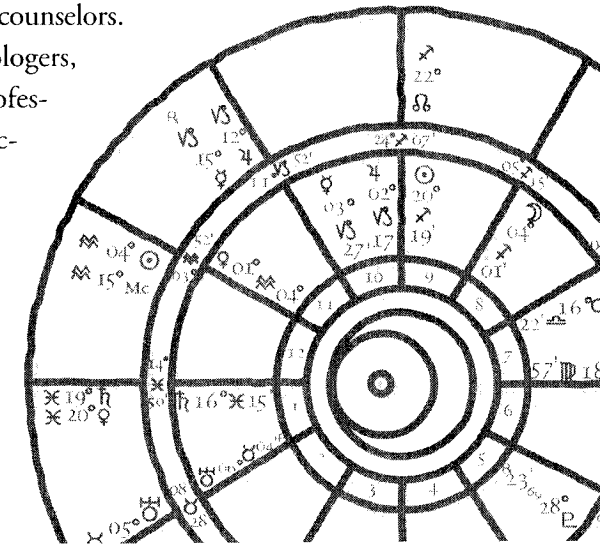
Counseling calls for special skills that can be developed. Ideas are so easily transferred to stressed clients without our realizing it and without our intention. In these days of litigation, practicing astrologers need wisdom. There is the tale, certainly not apocryphal, of how, in the early part of this century, a famous astrologer advised his rich client that he would lose all his money. So the client put all his wealth in his wife's name, and she ran off with their chauffeur. I think this was possibly the first astrology suit to be brought before the courts.

We study astrology because it interests us, not because we are especially kind, or "spiritual," or endowed with enormous psychic ability, or are adept at telling the future.

Nor are we necessarily successful counselors.

Having become qualified astrologers, we need to register with the professional association in our respective country. In Australia, it is the Federation of Australian Astrologers.

If we are qualified psychologists, or have majored in



psychology as part of our degree, we will have obtained some qualification in counseling techniques. It is essential that we do this when we qualify as astrologers. There are plenty of courses we can take these days that can add to our skills. Just because we have astrological ability does not in any way qualify us as social workers or enable us to handle other people's troubles or be skilled in giving advice. Many astrologers today are obtaining counseling qualifications or combining astrology with other disciplines. This is a very good trend.

There very few destructive astrologers practicing for their own sakes, and not for their clients. We hope our clients come to us because they have been personally recommended by someone who has been to us previously, not because we advertise well or have tossed off some slick one-liners at a party. I have to admit I have met some exceedingly good astrologers as well as some of the "clever Dick" variety from whom I'd run a mile.

Finding out your client's area of prime concern is first base in an interview, even if you think you can see it from the chart. It will color all their reactions and their long-term goals. This was mentioned in chapter 1. Do they act to preserve the family, their prime relationship, or for the sake of their own self-interest or because of what they believe to be right principles? Most clients come to astrologers because life is not working to their satisfaction. They generally don't come during the good times, though some want clarification in certain areas before they take specific action.

Even if they are taking full responsibility for their actions rather than projecting their troubles as being the fault of other people, it is usually an adverse event that triggers the consultation. I believe, and I stress the *I*, that planetary combinations are psychological drives that can be manifested positively or negatively. Even if the planets are connected by hard aspects, you can work toward a positive outcome, even if this means being more laid back. Time and again in my own chart I have managed to see all the negatives occurring in a difficult

progression, but with many good results at the end of the period. We can explain this important approach to our clients. I don't believe it to be a Pollyanna attitude to assume more confidence than one really has. We can work from the inside out or the outside in.

Very simplistically, you can get out of bed on the wrong side and the whole day can become a disaster; but with a determined switch of the mind, in spite of external conditions, you can persuade yourself to smile and look on the bright side. The whole day can then take on a different tone and put you on an upward swing. This is a very simple example, but changing someone's attitude can help them through difficult conditions. It has helped people through the most appalling conditions in their lives. We live in a world much more stressful than even ten years ago, and clients can have problems on several fronts at once.

I remember vividly how some years ago I had a client who had applied for fifty jobs. She was twenty-two years old and her spirit was nearly broken. She was the less confident of a pair of identical twins. Her sister had obtained a good job relatively easily. My twin was dressing badly, her hair needed a wash, she expected to get knocked back, and her resume was poorly presented. She had progressed sextiles in her chart as well as two difficult squares which I explained to her. Sextiles, of course, say, "Get up there and try."

She did, and she got a job as a legal search clerk. She was given training and later became the office manager. Fifteen years later, married with two children, she was still working part-time at the same job. Just showing her possibilities, other than her own negative messages to herself, proved to be a catalyst.

Sometimes simply telling people that they can do it is enough. It is a line of approach that helps in the difficult times of life, even if we only succeed in working some way toward it.

An extraordinary tale of someone who took this approach under the most difficult circumstances was that of Jewish psychiatrist Victor

Frankl. He discovered in a wartime concentration camp that if he worked hard he could detach his mind enough so that the horrors and tortures he saw did not prevent him from choosing his own response to his circumstances. He did not lose compassion, but found that his captors could not touch his inner core of self-respect and sense of self. He later founded his psychological school, called Logotherapy—development of the sense of purpose in life—and wrote books based on this self-discovery. A very strong intellect and will is required to do this as well as Frankl did.

Another important point to remember is that not all clients want to take the psychotherapeutic journey. Sometimes a client comes along, who has Pluto or the water houses natally prominent, who wants to dig the depths. Unless you are qualified, it is wise not to be tempted to advise. Most people come for bread-and-butter issues. Overwhelmingly, it is relationships, then jobs, security, money, and children that are important.

Although what is happening to some clients can be very difficult and hard to endure, if we can help these people hang on to their self-esteem and eventually adapt to the new conditions, they will find their chart is trying to give them what they want. As Liz Greene points out in her book *Astrology of Fate*, there are just some things, often the thing we want most, that are going to be forever denied to us. Even realizing that this is so, and giving up the “wanting,” can release a great deal of energy that can be utilized in doing other things in life. How we convey this to clients is of supreme importance and must be handled very compassionately.

We have to remember that it is extremely easy to put thoughts and ideas into the heads of stressed clients. A person's beliefs can make things happen. We draw to us that which we believe. We are quite dangerous if we plant negative ideas in the minds of worried clients. Sometimes you can be swayed by black-and-white interpretations and not tune in to the positive approach that can result at the end of,

say, a very difficult Saturn progression. Never underestimate the resilience of your clients. They should always be given hope.

Here are the words of the second client I mentioned in chapter 1, who had the progressed Sun/Saturn combination and whose husband lost his job. This is what she told me after the period was over: “I wouldn't in all my wildest dreams have wished it on us, but after it was over, my husband had become less autocratic. He did find a new job and direction for his life, and I was, well, happier, more fulfilled. In terms of the impact it made on the real happiness of our family. I think it was the most important and most involving time of all our lives. We had to give away our self-indulgences which, in retrospect, were to some extent destroying us. The children learned the wise use of money, for instance. Before they had just about everything money could buy. We had had too much of the good things in life and had taken them for granted. Our values changed for the better.”

I don't think I've ever seen better utilization of a Sun/Saturn progression. If you see difficult times coming up for your clients, concentrate on the self-esteem angle and see if you can help. “Life is tough,” as they say, and sometimes there appears to be no rhyme nor reason for misfortune, but if self-esteem is maintained, strength always results.

One trap a newly qualified astrologer can fall into is telling fearful, worried clients what they ought to do and almost laying out a life plan for them. This makes them dependent and will result in their ringing you up constantly before they feel they dare make a move. You need to make your clients aware that they are responsible for the choices they make.

Clients often consult astrologers because they just want someone to talk with who is detached from their problems. This helps enormously. The priestly listening function is sorely missed in today's society. In such a case, laying down an action plan is just not wanted, nor is self-analysis.

Progressions are fascinating. They allow us the privilege of seeing something very special at work. I still find it exciting to set up a natal and progressed chart and see the uniqueness of the person unfold, realizing that never before, and never again, will the solar system present quite like this.

Appendix: A Case Study

Interpreting Progressions Practically

This is the story of Douglas. I will show secondary day-for-a-year progressions, forward and converse, for the years 1956 to 1957 and for 1969. These years include the most horrendous events in Douglas's short, tragic life, and his death. I have included solar arc converse as well as forward directions, because more astrologers are using this latter method as calculations for converse are being included as part of progressed chart software.

Douglas's story was published by his journalist brother in the 1980s. At that time the New South Wales government in Australia was taking about a third of psychiatric patients from institutions and "rehabilitating" them in community hostels, a policy that many, including Douglas's family, opposed for reasons that will become apparent in his biography. His brother gave me his birth time and permission to publish Douglas's story and use his astrological data in my class notes and teaching, provided that absolute anonymity for the family was maintained. They had suffered enough. "Douglas," of course, is a pseudonym. The data for the time of birth and events are accurate, given that the time of birth is often noted afterward, so this makes the chart valuable as a teaching tool.

There could have been nothing further from the mind of Douglas's father, that August day in 1942, when he was about to see his first-born son, that in the future the lad would try to murder him and put the rest of the family in fear of their lives. His wife's pregnancy and

Douglas's birth had been normal, and Douglas was a much-wanted baby. For some reason unknown to themselves, fate had chosen this young couple—an enlisted lawyer and a clergyman's daughter—to be confronted with an insoluble problem. The tragedy of mental illness is still not dealt with well by the community, is still not fully understood, and still carries, though to a much lesser degree than it did, a stigma for the families it affects.

Douglas was perfect physically at birth, but it was only a matter of weeks before the first signs of difficulty appeared. He was eternally restless and demanding, screaming with frustration at the slightest delay in feeding. There was a war on and his father had to serve overseas, so Douglas's mother lived with her parents for eighteen months. The baby's demands increased and he even dictated from the baby carriage the direction in which he wanted to go by screaming if his mother took an undesired route. He became a tyrant to his family. He howled with rage whenever his demands were not immediately satisfied. He hurled his food away if he didn't like it and demanded complete attention. His mother had to sit for hours with her hand on him trying to get him to sleep. Later on, when he shared a room, even his brother's steady breathing would awaken him in a howling rage.

Of course, like all young mothers, his mother thought she was doing something wrong and that it was her fault. She moved from her parents' home to an apartment to give them much needed peace.

Douglas's father returned home from the war. Between the ages of two and four, Douglas became totally obsessed with things that spun around and around and with running water. He spent hours, much to the amusement of other children, sucking water from taps anywhere and spitting it down holes. Visits to friends became impossible, and Douglas even walked fully clothed into a dam on a visit to a friend, to attract everyone's attention.

When he was four, Douglas was expelled from kindergarten for being too hard to handle. He was also expelled from his first primary school, but in his second primary school, teachers tried to help him complete his early schooling. During this time, a softer side to his character emerged. It was found he was very good at music, and he taught himself to play the piano. He also rode ten kilometers on his bike before dawn to see the Sun rise on a particular tree. Two sisters were born, but Douglas still demanded complete attention from both parents and continued to wreck every family outing and holiday.

Douglas was considered to be of low-to-average intelligence and unable to cope with high school, so he went to a "super primary" school, an extension of his earlier education. At this time, in 1952, he exhibited bizarre behavior. He watched a crime movie at the local cinema and came home and broke into the house instead of coming in through the door.

In 1954, at the age of twelve, he was sent to a Protestant college. He was given music lessons, but these were abandoned and he was left to his own musical devices. In other areas he understood little. He would bring down a member of his own team in football. In order to "get back" at a master, he vandalized the man's car.

In 1956, Douglas decided he did not want to go back to school. He went to work in a department store, but soon lost his job. At night, at home in the shared bedroom, he rained down punches on his younger brother for breathing because he could hear the noise even through the paper he put in his ears. He was extraordinarily sensitive to his environment.

In 1956, at fourteen years of age, Douglas greatly increased in size and strength. One very hot evening, his baby sister was crying and he bashed her to quiet her down. His father, hearing her screams, rushed in and picked her up and got angry with Douglas. Douglas picked up the garden shears and ran to stab his father, who had carried the baby out into the garden to quiet her. Douglas went completely crazy and

stalked the house with the shears, looking for his father. His mother saw Douglas and screamed at him to put the shears down. His father heard and had just enough time to put down the baby on the garden path. At three paces distant from his father, Douglas hurled the shears with all his might at his father. They landed centimeters from the baby, sending a shower of blue and white sparks from the concrete path. His father leapt at him and the two struggled on the ground.

The family was shattered. Douglas was very subdued and he was sent to a mental hospital for the first time, by ambulance. His parents, visiting him there through two sets of locked doors, were absolutely appalled. They hated the thought of their son in there, even if he was being well looked after.

There being no good reason to keep him for long, Douglas was soon discharged and he returned home. One night his brother saw him violently sobbing, his head on the kitchen table. His mother rushed to comfort him. He knew he was different from other youths.

At Christmas in 1957, Douglas didn't get the present he wanted. He became even more violent than he had been in 1956. His mother defended herself with a broom while his father got him, howling with rage and anger, onto a bed, but Douglas released a powerful punch on his father, nearly breaking his jaw. A visiting uncle and his father managed to restrain him with a rope around his legs and called the police and ambulance. The house was in chaos and the family and relatives completely exhausted and shattered by the turn of events. Douglas was never to live at home again. In utter despair, his parents sought out a local doctor friend to see if his music would help him. The doctor said that although Douglas could play the piano, he was quite mad. This was the first time Douglas's parents had heard that word used to describe their son, but no one could diagnose the form of his illness. It was not a definite malady. He was variously described as psychopathic, schizophrenic, compulsively neurotic or epileptoid,

and prone to brain disturbances. The family came to the conclusion he was unclassifiable.

This time, when he was discharged from the mental hospital, his parents sent him to a rural training camp. It was a country property run by the Protestant church for boys who had been in trouble. It was headed by an ex-serviceman, one of those extraordinary people who turns up in welfare organizations and possess, with not so much academic qualifications, but intelligence and infinite compassion. The man had quiet discipline and skill and the boys loved him. He was later to visit Douglas in his darkest hours. But eventually, even he was to write to Douglas's parents, saying his behavior at the school was unendurable. Douglas had sent an axe hurtling through a window and set fire to the entire stock of goods prepared for the annual fundraising fair of the center.

At great expense to themselves, Douglas's parents sent their son to a psychiatric hospital for several weeks. They were advised by the resident psychiatrist to let Douglas work in a slaughterhouse and take it out on the animals.

Appalled at the thought of Douglas with a knife, his parents arranged for him to work in a carton factory, but once again he got the sack and his parents again sent him to a psychiatric training center in the country. He was at an all-time low and beseeched them to come and take him away. It was a primeval scream for help, which made his father break down and cry. But Douglas did settle down for a while and learned typing and continued to play the piano. The manager of the center wrote to say that he thought Douglas might be better now that the trials and tribulations of puberty were over, so Douglas was sent to a mental home for training in order to be allowed to live in a halfway house and to prepare for reentry into the community.

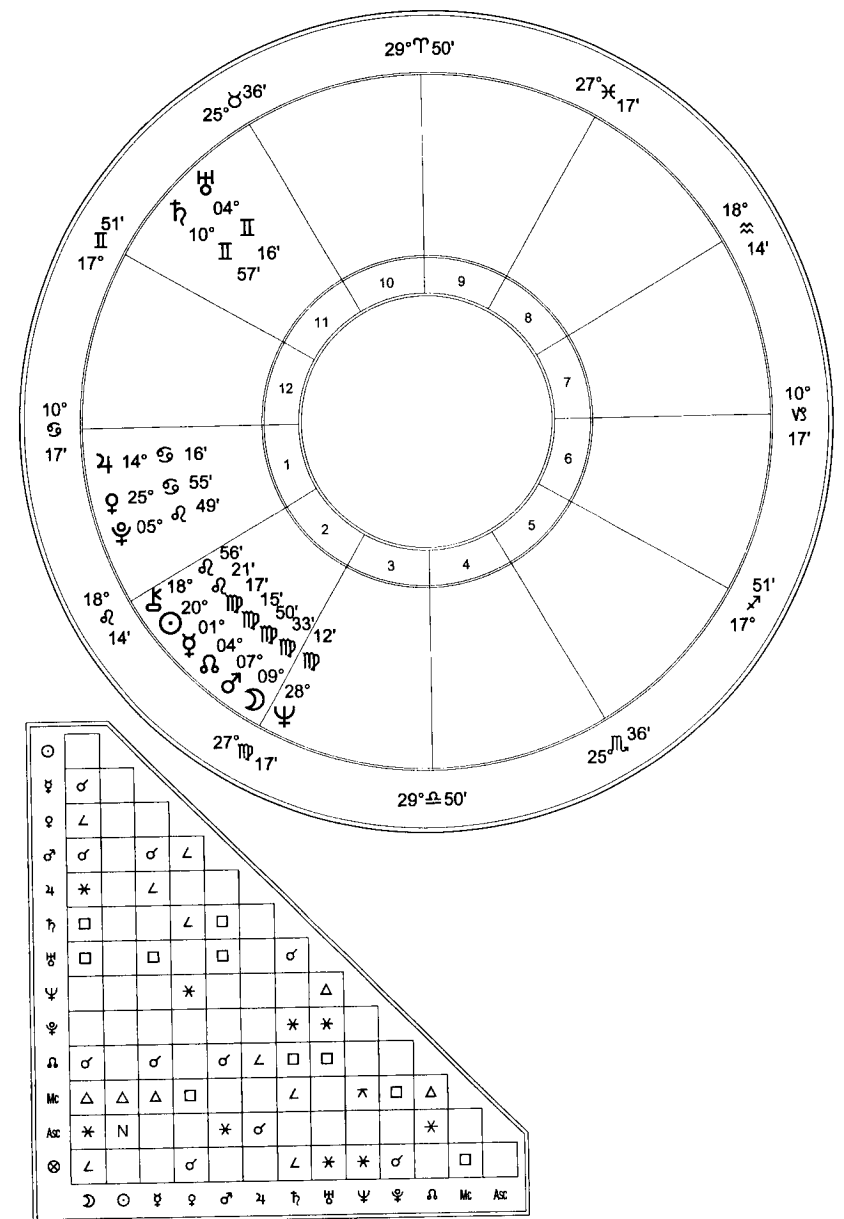
He went to work as a packer at a cotton factory, but lost the job after eighteen months, and the real slide into the abyss began. He fell

into debt and began repeatedly demanding money from his parents. He moved into the family home and a nightmarish six months began. His parents hid knives, axes, and sharp implements, and made the best of it. He joined the railway department and his parents stayed up to make sure he went to his midnight shift work. The family became more and more terrified as Douglas became more violent and threatened them constantly. His father slept with a stick beside his bed.

One night, Douglas's fifteen-year-old sister abused him and he withdrew in a surly mood. Her father called her at school and asked her to come home early. He warned her never to do that again, but to leave Douglas's anger directed at him. Douglas became even more manic, screaming continuously and refusing to go to work. He was taken to a mental home and he lost his railway job. He never forgave his parents for what he saw as betrayal and began to hate them in earnest.

Again he was released and he got a job as a sorter at the post office, but he began to take drugs and demanded money from his parents again. He was living in a hostel in the city. In 1966, he came home for a holiday in the country. He still saw home as a haven compared with the world outside, but his parents put him back on the plane to the city to work. They could go through no more. When his mother visited him, he clung to her like a drowning man, beseeching her not to go. He did go home for holidays and both parents visited him in the city, but every meeting was traumatic. He had various jobs, but also frequent spells back in the psychiatric hospital as a voluntary patient. He felt the environment was familiar and nonthreatening and he could relax there.

He still harbored dreams of owning a house, marrying, playing his Bach in the town hall, owning a car, and leading a normal life. In reality, at this time, he set alight the motorcycle of a psychiatric nurse who turned down his advances. His brother frequently contacted



Douglas / August 14, 1942 / 4:20 A.M. / Mater Hospital NSW / 33°S49'57" 151°E12'04"

Figure 1. Douglas—natal chart

him at this time. He saw him for the last time at Easter of 1969 when Douglas was twenty-seven.

In October of that year, out of spite for someone, Douglas tried to burn down the occupational therapy unit at the hospital. Apparently, he did not understand the volatility of petrol, and when he lit a match, the whole room became a fireball. When Douglas managed to reach the lawn, he was a human torch with third-degree burns on 70 percent of his body. He rallied once, but did not regain consciousness. His father could only formally identify him by the shape of his head.

His parents eventually retired, his siblings led normal, happy lives, but the great grief Douglas caused remains in the family, too deep to ever be tapped.

My students learned much from studying Douglas's chart. Many of them had never known mental illness at close quarters. We all felt enormous sympathy, both for Douglas and for his family.

The Natal Chart—Are the Progressed Events Possible?

I am not going to delineate Douglas's natal chart in great detail (figure 1). You can do that if you have learned basic astrology. From the point of view of extreme emotional sensitivity and frustration, one glance conveys that it is an extremely difficult chart. The Jupiter rising and conjunct the Ascendant indicates how big he did become in puberty and, with Venus in the first house, also in Cancer, how caring his family was even in the most difficult circumstances. The Pluto in Leo in the first house, apart from the tight Moon/Saturn square and the wider Moon/Uranus square, indicates how much of a loner he felt once outside his immediate family. I state here I do not use Chiron because I haven't been convinced that it is astronomically important, but it is inserted here for those of you who do. I find I can obtain

all I want without it, and I find Douglas certainly displayed the behavior of an unsuspected Sun.

The agitation he must have felt is obvious. Mercury applying to the square of Uranus fairly tightly, gives him no peace, and this is all before we get to Mars. The Moon's link with Mars and Uranus indicates his desire for drugs and excitement. Mars square Uranus is the aspect par excellence of extreme restlessness and bad temper. Compounded by the very frustrating square of Mars to Saturn, it would have been incredibly difficult for Douglas to do anything with these aspects at all. There were just too many of them. He did get the sextile from Venus to Neptune working by playing the piano and seeing the sun rise, Neptune being in the third house and trine Uranus, helped by the questing connotations of the Saturn conjunct Uranus; but the latter combination in this chart is a sign of extreme stress, a volcano about to erupt. Square to the Moon, the Saturn/Uranus conjunction has a blow hot/blow cold effect on the emotions—love and hate exemplified. The square to Mars probably inclined him to set fire to the possessions of the people who frustrated him, including those of the nurse who refused his advances. This brings in the opposite eighth house of other people's values, which, with this amount of stress, he was not capable of even remotely comprehending. He never felt relaxed, which is why he could get so angry when he couldn't sleep.

I think what did help him for a long time was the applying sextile of the Moon to Jupiter and the reasonable aspects to the Ascendant and Midheaven. The wide trine to the Sun from the Midheaven would require effort, but it did work. His old training center manager retained goodwill and visited him long after Douglas had set fire to the center's fund-raising goods. The sextiles of Saturn and Uranus to Pluto, giving endurance, also would have helped, but remember that this lad would have had no conception of what a relaxed state and calm frame of mind would be like. He had never known anything but

enormous tension. He had nothing to compare with his agitated emotions. Mercury/Mars with the node as the midpoint displays his brother's help. The square from Pluto to the Midheaven, I think, indicates his dictatorial qualities when, even as a baby, he ruled the roost.

Let's examine the overloaded second house, overloaded because it contains more than three planets. This initially, and probably all through Douglas's young life, would outlet through the opposite eighth house because of the concentrated energy. Time allows the owner of an overloaded house to draw back and put the energy into the occupied area instead of projecting it into the opposite house. Douglas wanted all his parents' attention all the time, he even wanted the right presents at Christmas, and he wanted the family to conform with his desires and needs. These attitudes are all projected eighth-house qualities, opposite his overloaded second house, and are connected with other people's values that he had to confront. This attention-seeking quality, I have found, occurs with unaspected Suns. As I mentioned earlier, in Queen Elizabeth's chart it is a blessing, but often it is a Sun out of control. The problem in Douglas's chart is compounded by the Sun being in the sign Leo. All the pride and arrogance, which is the negative expression of that sign, was manifested. An unaspected Sun swings from absolute demand for the ego's fulfillment to the inability to stand up for oneself. It always wants attention.

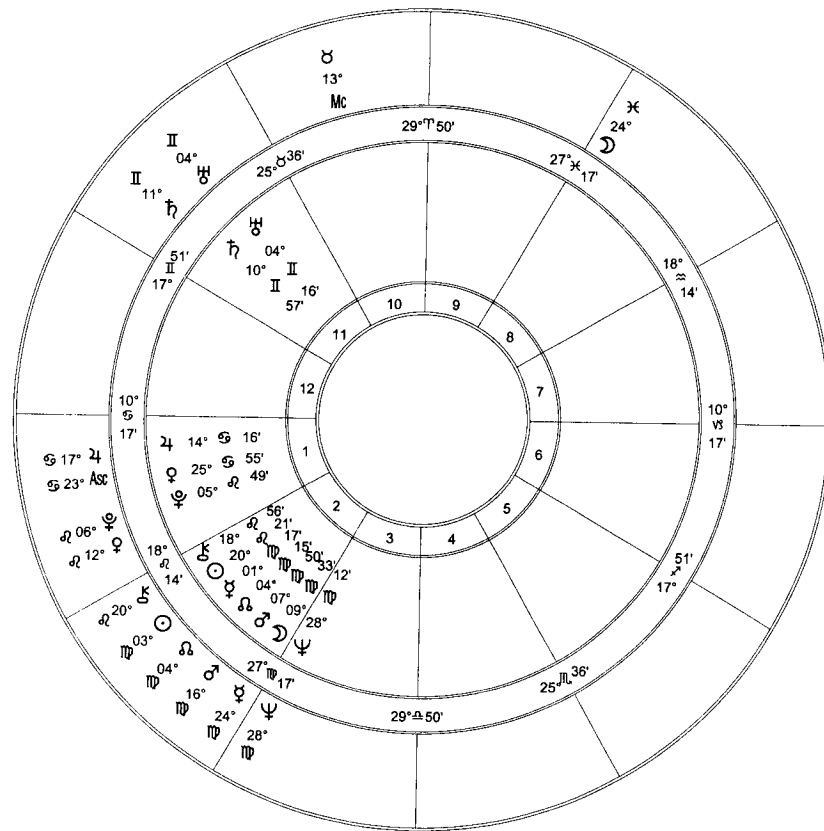
The Moon in Virgo and its aspects were probably the reason why the minutiae of life disturbed him so much, like his brother's breathing at night, which annoyed him intensely, and why he never felt he got the emotional attention he so much desired. Its square to Saturn in Virgo would give Douglas a very critical nature.

The second house is the house of self-worth, but here with all the squares to planets occupying the house, it indicates that far too much energy was put into trying to cope with other areas, resulting in

ungovernable behavior. Douglas was constantly undermining his own opinion of himself. He often forgot to take his medication and then had terrible outbursts and hung his head for days afterward. Remember that he was of low-to-average intelligence. He had problems with the very tangible things in life. The rest of his family was very bright, indeed.

The second house is the house of self-definition, where we define ourselves as an individual. Away from the family, Douglas had great trouble defining his individuality and certainly felt unworthy. I have frequently found that people with a very dominant parent who swallowed them up have interesting activity in the second house. They need to define themselves to themselves. They also need to sort out what constitutes their security and go after it. It is not always money or tangible bricks and mortar. It may be emotional self-sufficiency. It can be knowledge, if Mercury is placed here, or artistic ability or love, if Venus is in this house. I remember a man with Jupiter in the second house who defined his life's quest as the getting of wisdom. Religious belief providing emotional security can also occur with Jupiter here.

Planets placed in the second house can indicate abilities to be used, our innate talents with which we can gain a sense of self-worth. These, then, provide our security. Douglas did work on the railways and in the post office using his second house Mercury. He got monotonous, repetitious packing work and assembly line jobs, which suited his intelligence. These are indicated by the square to the Midheaven from Pluto, the planet that inclines people to do repetitious things. This indicates Douglas's obsessions with water and anything spinning when he was young, added to the fact other children gathered around him when he did these things, giving him the attention he so much wanted. Generally, though, apart from his piano playing, I feel that with an unaspected Sun, he couldn't have obtained any meaning from what he did that would boost his ego. Also Douglas's



INNER WHEEL

Douglas / August 14, 1942 / 4:20 A.M. / Mater Hospital NSW /
33°S49'57" 151°E12'04"

OUTER WHEEL

Douglas / Sec. Prog. SA in Long / August 14, 1956 /
11:14 A.M. / Mater Hospital NSW /
33°S49'57" 151°E12'04"

Figure 2. Douglas—secondary progressions August 14, 1956

Mars with its difficult aspects in the second house shows how rashly he spent his money when he got it. He couldn't manage it at all.

The second house is a crucial house in that it displays our values and what we hope to gain as we go through life. Nothing could be more fundamental to us personally. If we change our values, our whole life direction changes. What we want, or desire, is generally what and who we attract into our lives. Looking at Douglas's chart, it is easy to see why he was on this roller coaster and why he could not get off.

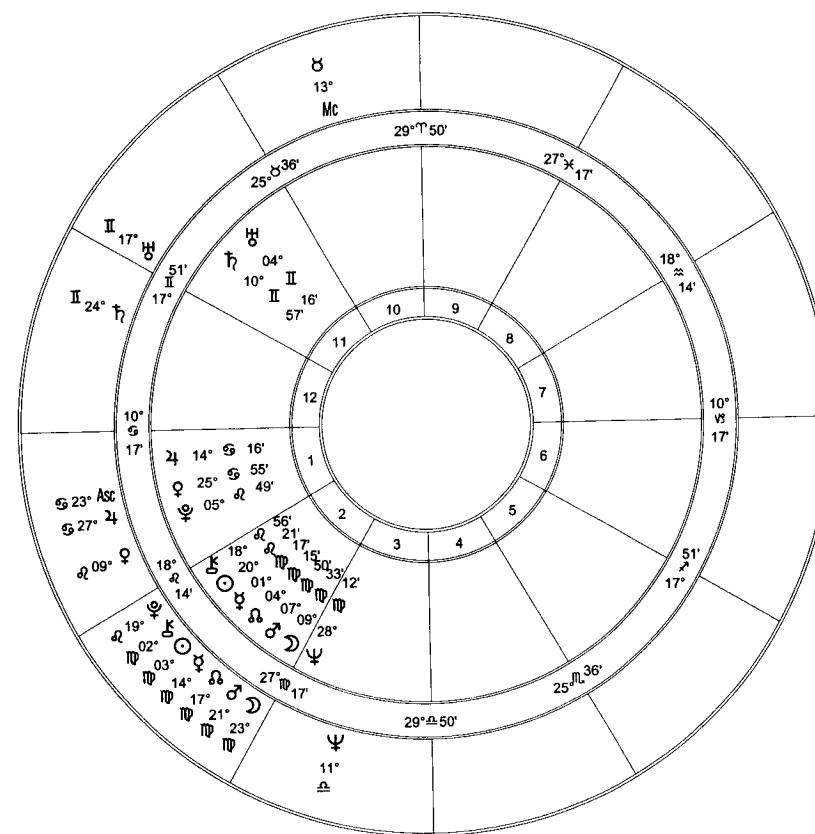
The year is 1956, Douglas is fourteen years old, and it is at the height of the Australian summer. We don't know which month, but somewhere between December and the end of February the incident when he attacked his father with the shears took place. Looking at the progressed chart for August 14, 1956 (figure 2), we move on four months to summer (in Australia) and find that the progressed Sun is approaching the square of the natal Uranus. Uranus aspects always work early. Douglas was at home and the progressed Sun also conjuncts the node. Can you imagine a more difficult progression for Douglas to deal with than this Uranus one, given the natal chart he has?

The transits involved for the summer of 1956 (say December) are Saturn in the fifth house; love is hard to come by and one feels alienated. Transiting Saturn was trine his natal Pluto and, being sextile natally, it would give him resilience and endurance for his troubles at this time. Transiting Jupiter just goes into the third house, but retrogrades backward into the second, so he gets the resources to help him through, but not the cheerfulness of Jupiter in the third house. I think we have to realize that these transits would work at their most fundamental level for Douglas. He had no way of harnessing their energy for the good. The trigger for the progressions is retrograding, transiting Uranus conjunct Pluto in the first house, which means fundamental and often revolutionary changes in the life and, with the

natal squares to Uranus, deep irritation and restlessness. Douglas was sent to a mental hospital and for the first time was behind locked doors. When he was discharged, his brother found Douglas one night at the kitchen table sobbing so violently his whole body shook, and called their mother to comfort him. Douglas knew he was different from other people. Mercury rules the twelfth house in Douglas's natal chart. At its most basic, the twelfth house means sorrow, confinement, and self-undoing. Douglas's natal aspects certainly indicate that there's a possibility of being confined for long periods of time. His actions, as we have seen, undermined his self-worth.

Perhaps the most telling transit of Christmas time in 1956 is that of Neptune opposing the natal Midheaven. Remember that the Midheaven may be one or two degrees later, and not the exact hospital time, and it has a transiting orb of around five degrees. This aspect tends to make you feel that the ground has been pulled out from under you and makes your security base feel as if it is built on quicksand. For a lad with such strong second house emphasis, this would have been incredibly undermining. Neptune transiting the fourth house is difficult to deal with at the best of times. We don't know the exact month of the shears incident, but for three months the progressed Moon is around the opposition of the natal Neptune, which meant Douglas didn't know where he stood with his family, the only anchor in his restless life. He no longer felt secure in the family home. Not knowing the exact timing, we cannot deduce the transiting trigger for these progressions.

The solar arc chart for the summer of 1956 (figure 3) is only slightly different from the day-for-a-year secondary progressions. Progressed Neptune is trine the natal Saturn, bringing in the natal Saturn aspects. Even a trine between these two can undermine confidence unless self-talk is positive. Progressed Mercury is separating from the sextile of the natal Jupiter, showing his brother's concern,



INNER WHEEL

Douglas / August 14, 1942 / 4:20 A.M. / Mater Hospital NSW /
33°S49'57" 151°E12'04"

OUTER WHEEL

Douglas / Directed—Solar Arc / August 14, 1956 /
11:14 A.M. / Mater Hospital NSW /
33°S49'57" 151°E12'04"

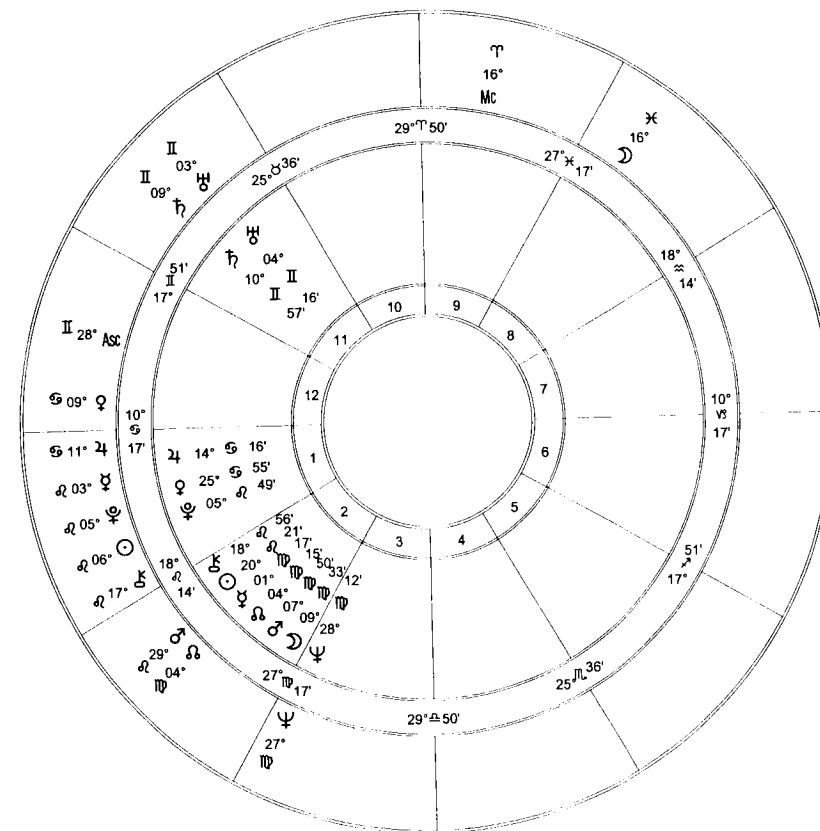
Figure 3. Douglas—solar arcs August 14, 1956

and the progressed Moon squares the progressed Saturn, lasting for three months. Douglas probably would have felt quite alienated and lonely.

Converse day-for-a-year progressions are illustrated for you to observe (figure 4). The converse progressed node is squaring Uranus but natively it is the midpoint of Mercury/Mars and conjunct the Moon, all square to the natal Saturn and Uranus. This is how you bring in the natal aspects to help delineate progressions. Douglas didn't want people around him. The converse progressed Sun is coming to conjunct the natal Pluto (remember that we have moved to around December or January of 1957 in the summer). This is a very powerful aspect and dangerous in someone who has little self-esteem. It inclines to aggression and dominance. Converse progressed Mars is trine the natal Midheaven. With a natively inflamed Mars such as Douglas had, no matter how good the progressed aspects are involving Mars, the person is almost certainly going to be inclined to "fire from the hip" and be unable to control his temper and direct the enormous trigger-like energy into positive physical exercise. Used constructively like this, or on hard mental work, Mars boosts the ego, but a difficult Mars always inclines to a bad temper and angry outbursts. Ideally, Douglas should have been given hard physical work all of his life. His first house Jupiter and Pluto would have given him strength.

If we move on one year to the events of Christmas of 1957, when Douglas didn't get the present he wanted, we can still use the 1956 charts as guides. The Sun is still separating from the square of Uranus, and by both secondary day-for-a-year converse and solar arc converse, the Sun is exactly conjunct Pluto. All these aspects indicate violent, revolutionary, heavy times, and Douglas was never to live at home again after his Christmas Day outburst in 1957.

From the ephemeris on that day, transiting Sun and Mercury (retrograde) were in the sixth house, sextiling the badly aspected natal



INNER WHEEL

Douglas / August 14, 1942 / 4:20 A.M. / Mater Hospital NSW /
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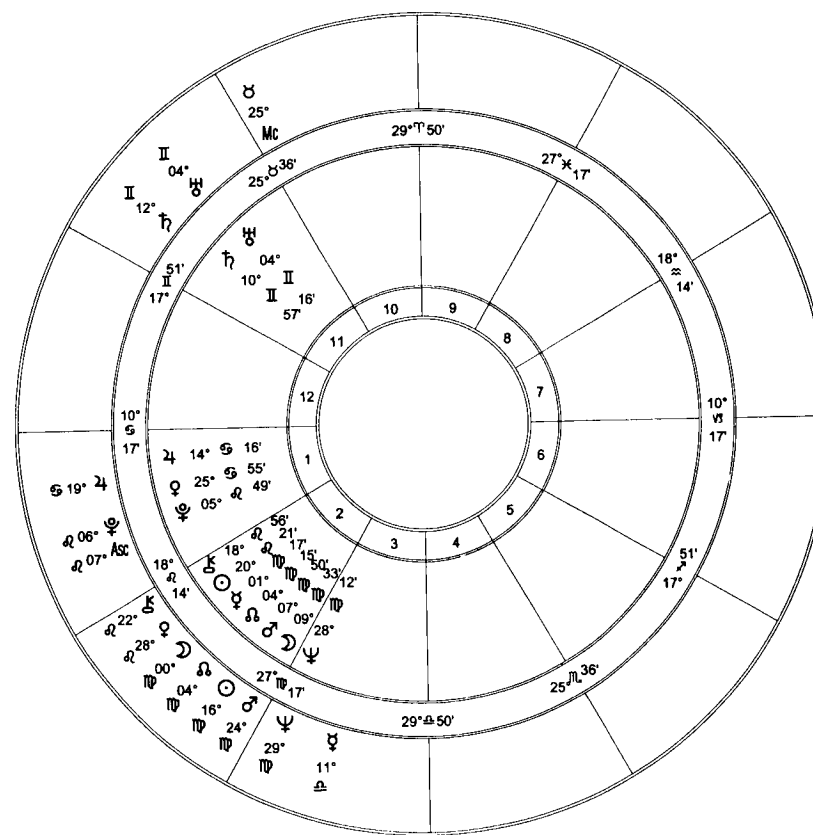
OUTER WHEEL

Douglas / Sec. Prog. SA in Long Converse / August 14, 1956 /
12:09 P.M. / Mater Hospital NSW /
33°S49'57" 151°E12'04"

Figure 4. Douglas—converse secondary progressions
August 14, 1956

node. They were both inconjunct the natal Uranus. Transiting Venus was in the seventh house inconjunct the natal Neptune, itself still transiting the fourth house. There are many ways you can interpret these aspects. For example, Venus is in Cancer natally, in the first house and ruling the fourth house. Neptune is in the third house. The ideal present wasn't produced. Transiting Uranus was sextiling Saturn from the first house, triggering the natal conjunction of these planets, and Pluto was transiting backward and forward over Douglas's natal Mercury, which rules the twelfth house of confinement. Jupiter was transiting his third house. The trigger for exactly timing the progressions was transiting Mars at one degree of Sagittarius exactly squaring Douglas's natal Mercury on Christmas Day. Mars is often the trigger for timing progressions.

For the events to occur in direct progressions, the rulers of the cusps of the houses connected with the events must be involved, or the planets occupying the houses must be activated. I have not found that this rule applies to converse progressions, but the essential meaning of the planets provides the delineation. I leave this matter open for debate. In Douglas's case, I think the events are connected with his second house of possessions and self-worth, with the Sun as ruler of the Leo cusp and Uranus as ruler of the eighth house. Both planets were involved in the Sun square Uranus progression, which was operative during 1956 and 1957. Other people's values really affected Douglas and he had to be removed from home and other institutions because he couldn't conform. I have also found that Saturn in natal hard angles can mean the person's view of reality doesn't agree with the accepted values of society's attitudes. The progressed Moon was traveling through the ninth house, and I can only surmise that this was an intense learning experience for Douglas and his outburst resulted in him having to live a long way from home. Remember that I never interviewed Douglas. We are doing these progressions with-



INNER WHEEL

Douglas / August 14, 1942 / 4:20 A.M. / Mater Hospital NSW /
33°S49'57" 151°E12'04"

OUTER WHEEL

Douglas / Sec. Prog. SA / March 14, 1969 /
11:14 A.M. / Mater Hospital NSW /
33°S49'57" 151°E12'04"

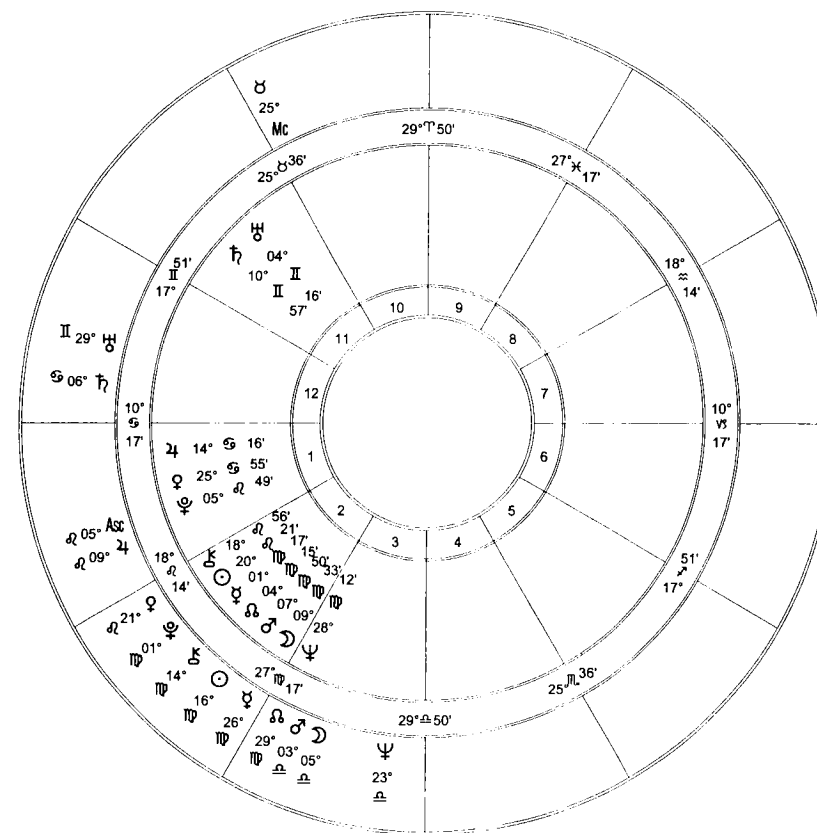
Figure 5. Douglas—secondary progressions March 14, 1969

out that assistance. I never interviewed his brother; I only have the charts and the specific events.

The final three charts are set up for the time Douglas's brother last saw him. Looking at the day-for-a-year secondary progressions for March of 1969 (figure 5), Mercury is trining Douglas's natal Saturn. His brother commented that Douglas was still hopeful of leading a normal life, getting married, and owning a car. He even planned to play the piano at the city town hall, which is a very Leo thing to want to do! Natally, Saturn is in the eleventh house of future hopes.

Let's move on to the month of October of 1969 and the tragic terrible death Douglas inflicted on himself. For death to occur, we need the ruler of the cusp of the fourth house to be involved in progressions, the end of life. We also need progressed Ascendant aspects indicating the physical body and probably some activity with the Midheaven, public notice, and progressed aspects to the eighth house of death. With Douglas's reactive natal chart, a progressed semisextile or an inconjunct would be enough to trigger events.

By secondary progressions, Douglas's progressed Venus is semisextile Neptune and approaching the trine of the Midheaven; but here is where you have to use common sense. If Douglas's birth had been a fraction later, the cusp of the fourth house would be Scorpio and not Libra. If this were so, Mars and Pluto would be the rulers, and this fact must be placed in the back of your mind when delineating. As it is, Mars is sextile natal Venus, bringing with it its baggage of natal hard aspects. The Sun is sesquiquadrate the natal Midheaven exactly. In October, with an operative timespan of three months, his chart ruler, the progressed Moon, is conjunct the natal Mars, which is probably why he wanted vengeance against someone in the hospital occupational therapy unit and tried to burn the place down. Progressed Mercury is on its last minutes of trining the natal Saturn but brings in its natal square to Uranus, ruler of the eighth house of death and vengeance. Progressed Jupiter is semisquare the natal Uranus and



INNER WHEEL

Douglas / August 14, 1942 / 4:20 A.M. / Mater Hospital NSW /
33°S49'57" 151°E12'04"

OUTER WHEEL

Douglas / Directed—Solar Arc Converse / March 14, 1969 /
11:14 A.M. / Mater Hospital NSW /
33°S49'57" 151°E12'04"

Figure 6. Douglas—solar arcs March 14, 1969

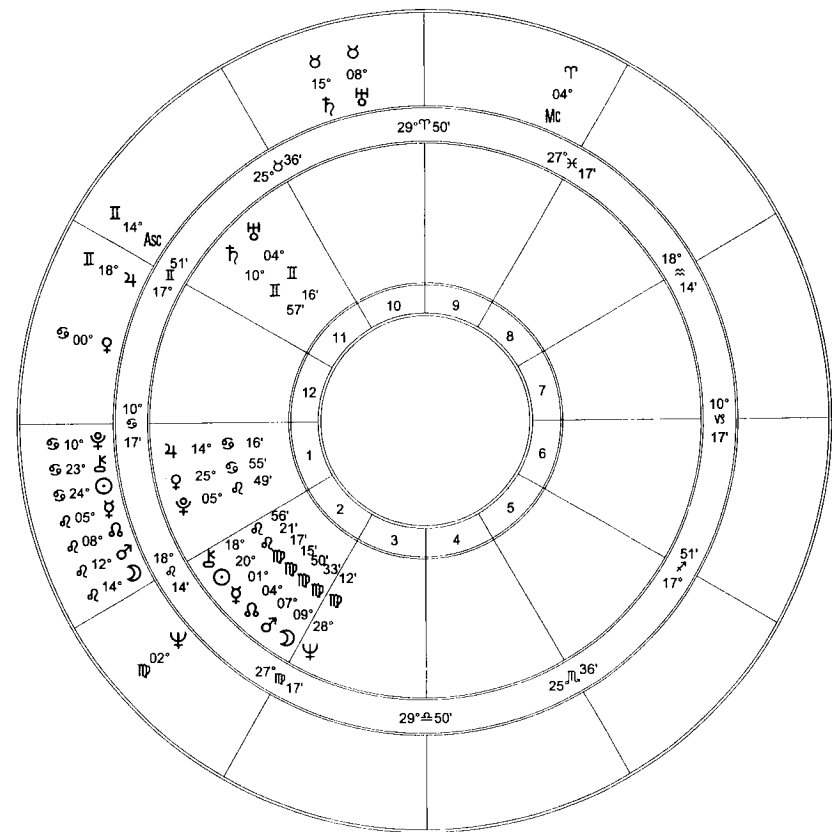
is approaching a sextile to the natal Sun. Perhaps it is a little far-fetched to think that the first house natal Jupiter protected him at the end by not allowing him to regain consciousness. The progressed Ascendant is semisextile Mars, and progressed Uranus still square the node, as it did natively. So the day-for-a-year progressions look like this:

P♀∟Ψr P♂✳♀r P♁☐MCr P♃♁♂r P♃♁♂r sep;
P♃∟♁r and PAsc∟♂r

(r=radical=natal)

This is not enough, I would have thought, to indicate such a violent death; but the natal Uranus has four squares and is ruler of the eighth. It is obvious from this that Douglas's vengeful intentions totally misfired. The progressed Moon conjunct Mars in the third house shows his primary intention. He was very angry.

Let's examine the directed solar arc chart for 1969 (figure 6). The death is much clearer than in secondary progressions. I often find solar arcs much clearer when delineating progressions. If the cusp of the fourth house is Scorpio, it is clearer still. The progressed Ascendant is conjunct the natal Pluto, the Sun has the same aspects as secondary progressions, sesquiquadrate to the natal Midheaven. The progressed Moon is sextile Douglas's natal Pluto, and progressed Pluto is conjunct the natal Mercury. Progressed Jupiter is semisextile the natal Moon with a good aspect at birth (his protection and probably release from emotional suffering). Incidentally, the year before his death in 1968, by solar arc, progressed Venus conjuncted Douglas's natal Sun. He spent most of his time in the mental home where he felt most at ease and had access to a piano. Although he had a number of jobs, he could return to the home whenever he wanted to. Pluto is very active in these progressions. Natively, Pluto is in the first house in Leo and indicates endings and death. In this sign it is an admonition to develop one's own strength, integrity, and power in order to lead others. But it can be vengeful and fulminate over wrongs done to one.



INNER WHEEL

Douglas / August 14, 1942 / 4:20 A.M. / Mater Hospital NSW /
33°S49'57" 151°E12'04"

OUTER WHEEL

Douglas / Directed—Solar Arc Converse / March 14, 1969 /
12:09 P.M. / Mater Hospital NSW /
33°S49'57" 151°E12'04"

Figure 7. Douglas—converse solar arcs March 14, 1969

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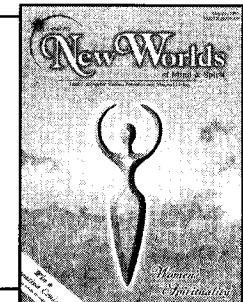
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