

The Astrology of Cycles

Astrology shows us the cyclic nature of our identities. Each part of our lives is affected by cycles, rhythms that underlie our connection to the planet. In this year of 1999, we need to see these rhythms more than ever as change and apparent chaos seem to reign everywhere we look.

There are smaller and larger cycles. The cycle of the moon is only 28 days while the cycle of Pluto is 250 years. This shows how much we are affected by faster moving “events” and by larger, more collective ones that evolve slowly over time. As a planet returns to its original position in our birthcharts, feel a focus on that particular energy more strongly. The moon returns every 28 days to its original position and at that time we feel a connection to our emotional roots and feelings. This is a core cycle as everyone feels this connection and the moon is a symbol of the pure rhythm of nature. Mercury returns every 88 days to its birthchart position and at that time, we feel a focus on our intellectual/informational identity. Venus returns at about nine month cycles and represents relationships and the aesthetic side of life. The sun’s one year movement is our birthday when we feel our basic identity and mission in life. Mars comes back to its original position every 2 1/2 years and is a time of action and passion.

The larger cycles are represented by Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune and Pluto, which are slower moving planets and create changes over longer periods of time. Jupiter and Saturn have 11 1/2 and 29 year cycles respectively while Uranus is 84 years, Neptune 164 years and Pluto 250 years. The latter three have a collective as well as personal impact.

Jupiter and Saturn symbolize the ‘adolescent’ and adult in us and each balances the other in our personalities. Jupiter’s first 11 1/2 year cycle shows us our entrance into early adolescence which we experience as a time of opportunity. Saturn, on the other hand, brings to us a sense of responsibility, duty and structure at its 29 year cycle and is a time for examining the adult in us and where we want to focus our energies as responsible members of the community.

As collective planets, Uranus, Neptune and Pluto are experienced by the culture as a whole in addition to us personally. Their cycles represent changes that merge us with a universal sense of who we are. Uranus is change itself and when it comes into opposition to the place where it was at our birth, we call it the “mid life crisis”. This occurs at about age 39 when we look at our lives and seek our fundamental individuality and freedom.. This occurs over several years as we attempt to become who we really are while many changes in the way we look at ourselves occur. Neptune is our spirituality and about age 41 is the “Neptune square” when it reaches 90 degrees from where it was at our birth. This is a time of examining our faith and connection to a higher power as the key to our lives. Pluto represents power and mission and transforms us as it moves through our charts. Like Uranus and Neptune, it also is a part of change on the planet as a whole. At about age 37, we experience the “Pluto square” when it moves 90 degrees from its

original position. Now we look closely at our power /mission in life and how close or distant we feel from that mission. The ability to feel our power is fundamental to this period.

Cycles then are occurring continuously in our lives. Short term cycles show us the flow of events in current terms while longer cycles show us the evolution of identity over time. The key is to recognize that everything is occurring cyclically and we are a part of the rhythm of nature that connects us to the core of who are! This opportunity of connectedness is available in each moment of life.

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