

FOLLOWED BY A



MOONSHADOW

EXPLORING YOUR
NATAL ECLIPSE CYCLES



BY

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Occasionally life finds us playing out some familiar piece of personal theater—a self-destructive response to particular situations, a predilection for inappropriate relationships—when suddenly we experience a breakthrough of objectivity. We are able to observe ourselves as if from a great distance, as if watching a character in a movie — one that goes according to a well-established formula, like a teen slasher movie, for instance. Our intrepid teenage heroine returns home from a hot date to find her front door wide open. Instead of running for dear life (obviously the sensible response!), she wanders slowly into the house, her eyes glazed over, almost as if she can't help herself....

This is the point at which we in the audience—who've seen dozens of these slasher flicks and can predict exactly what's going to happen next — rise up as one and shout at that luminous projection on the movie screen, “Don't do it! *Don't go in that house!*” After all, our protagonist would presumably have seen a few of these films herself, and should know better! But of course, just because we, the audience, see what's coming next doesn't mean we can do much about it. Even when it's ourselves we're observing in the all-too-familiar film of our lives, often we can only sit and watch in disgust as we wander, eyes glazed, into that house — and get ripped to shreds by a mutant serial killer.

As Mark Twain once said, “History doesn't repeat itself, but it rhymes.” And throughout our lives, history may not repeat itself exactly, but certain patterns and characters sure seem familiar. Why do we keep buying a ticket to see the same movie over and over again? Why do we keep finding ourselves in the same kinds of plots, relationships, and jobs, surrounded by what amounts to the same characters played by different actors?

We wear grooves in the same old plots, it seems, until we come to a turning point in life, some kind of traumatic crisis that rather painfully liberates us from our usual defenses. It's often at these kinds of moments that we are propelled, in desperation, to an astrologer, craving the reassurance of prediction. What will happen? Is this as bad as it will get? How long will it last? But at this stage of

the game, the astrologer is in a predicament. We understand how you feel, and we want to help, but to really help we must remove the safety net of a static future. If we simply tell you how long the crisis will last, it is tempting for you to simply run and hide in a bunker until the whole thing blows over. Unfortunately, when the crisis is over, so, often, is the opportunity for growth and insight. Fortunately, astrology can provide understanding, and that understanding can go a long way toward substituting for certainty. When you have understanding and perspective, you have an inner compass that guides you through whatever external dramas come your way. Used as a tool for building this kind of understanding, astrology can reveal possibilities in an exciting and meaningful way and offer a satisfying alternative to the no-win choice between fatalistic, head-in-the-sand fortune telling and squooshy, feel-good double-talk: “Oh, don’t worry, everything will be just fine after the eclipses are over, dear!”

Eclipse cycles are among my favorite tools for helping myself and others recognize the recurring patterns in our lives, interpret what these patterns mean, and work productively with life’s turning points. By tracking eclipse patterns through the chart, it is evident how these patterns link together unexpected periods of our lives and offer us healing through a series of developmental crises. This is information with the potential to offer you something really worthwhile: a tool to excite curiosity and promote imaginative responses to life’s turning points.

Used thoughtfully, eclipse cycles or any other predictive technique can offer a way to anticipate, revision, and ultimately heal the life lessons suggested by natal aspects. Having a tool for anticipating the next chapter in the unfolding drama of your life can help you understand not so much what events will take place, but what part of you will be summoned up by those events and given the opportunity for further development.

Think of this report is a kind of “workshop on paper.” We will cover some eclipse basics – eclipse mechanics, solar vs. lunar eclipses, when we begin to “feel” eclipses. Then interpretations are given for your pre-natal eclipse points, and eclipse transits in your chart for last year, this year, and next year, according to

the natal houses and planets that are being impacted by eclipses. There is some repetition from year to year; eclipses don't obey the calendar, but we humans do, and so that's the way this report is arranged.

Begin by reading last year's report. Many readers overlook this section, thinking there's little to be gained by examining events that are already past. But that's the nature of eclipse work: examining the past, in order to place the present in context. This year's eclipses are part of a continuing cycle, and examining where you've just been is extremely helpful in understanding where you are now – and where you'll soon be going.

The most important information in this report will be the biographical details you bring to it as you reflect on your past. At the end of the interpretations for each year, space is provided that encourages you to delve into the highlights of your own history and look for connections between different eras of your life, and how they are affecting you today. Take your time with these sections; some memories may come to you quickly, but some may be more subtle and unfold gradually. It's a process I think you'll find engaging, and one that often yields surprising insights.

I hope you'll enjoy your *Moonshadow* journey!

Happy Eclipse Watching!



Pages 6-12 omitted from this sample report

transiting eclipses in aspect to natal planets

Eclipses pack more of a punch when they form close aspects (I use no more than 4° orb) to natal planets--especially a major, "hard" aspect:

- conjunction (0 degrees)
- square (90 degrees)
- opposition (180 degrees).

But like any hard aspect to a natal planet--whether by a transiting or progressed planet, or even synastry with another person--an eclipse aspect sensitizes not only one planet, but a "theme network" consisting of relationships with other planets (aspects). So when a planet receives an aspect from an eclipse, not just one archetype--but a whole pattern-- emerges. This theme repeats over and over, eventually becoming as familiar as the plot of a movie you've seen many, many times.

Not all eclipses are created equal. Usually, the ones that are most difficult are the ones that trigger an already-volatile combination in your birth chart. An eclipse in aspect to a difficult configuration in your chart is probably going to be a lot more troublesome than an eclipse in aspect to an easy configuration – just as you would notice a playful punch in the arm a lot more if your arm were broken!

Critical configurations in your chart:

/ = conjunct. Note: Wide orbs (10 deg.) are used for natal configurations.

Sun/Midheaven square Lunar Nodes

Sun square Neptune

Moon/Saturn square Pluto

Moon opposed Mars

Mercury square Uranus

Venus/Jupiter

Venus opposed Pluto

Mars square Uranus

Jupiter square Ascendant

Neptune/North Node opposed Ascendant

prenatal eclipses:

the shadow of the hawk

Your **prenatal eclipse points** are the degrees of the solar and lunar eclipses that happened immediately prior to your birth. Since eclipses occur every six months, your prenatal eclipses may have taken place at any time during the six months before you were born.

The houses of your chart where the prenatal eclipses fell represent areas of your life with life-changing potential. Deep pain can be associated with these areas of your life, but they also represent opportunities for deep insight that can be used to transform your own life – and to help you understand other people better, too.

I remember reading once that baby chickens are born imprinted with the recognition of a hawk's shadow, so that they instinctively recognize their primary natural predator. I think of the prenatal eclipse point as describing the shadow of your own personal predator—what you instinctively fear from birth. Because they awaken these primal fears, years when eclipses conjoin, oppose, or square these prenatal points can awaken particularly sensitive feelings. These are important years; think of them as “through-ways to maturity”, which get easier to navigate as you grow in understanding.

The Shadow of the Hawk: Your Prenatal Eclipse Points				
Date	Type	Location	Falls in your...	Aspects to your natal planets
11/29/1974	Lunar Eclipse	7 Gemini 01	12th house	square Sun, opposed North Node <i>Repeats: 1975, 1979, 1980, 1984, 1988, 1989, 1993, 1994, 1997, 1998, 2002, 2003, 2007, 2011, 2012, 2013.</i>
12/13/1974	Solar Eclipse	21 Sagittarius 16	7th house	square Jupiter, opposed Ascendant <i>Repeats: 1978, 1979, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1988, 1989, 1992, 1997, 1998, 2001, 2002, 2006, 2007, 2011.</i>
Critical years in this cycle: 1975, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1988, 1989, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1997, 1998, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2006, 2007, 2011, 2012, 2013.				

prenatal eclipses in the 1st / 7th houses:

l o v e s h a d o w

Do you have a love/hate relationship with love? Is it difficult for you to stand up for yourself? Do your closest personal relationships feel like a balancing act, with one person always up while the other is down?

Because the 1st and 7th houses are associated with **individuality and connection**, those born with prenatal eclipses here, or in the signs of Aries or Libra, typically react strongly to issues of **personal independence and intimacy**. Other factors in your chart will have a strong impact on which end of this particular teeter totter you are more comfortable riding, but chances are good that some of the most painful moments of your life have been related to these issues.

Years when eclipses fall in these houses, especially years when eclipses fall very close to your prenatal eclipse points, are years when you have the opportunity to confront – and hopefully, make peace with – **the fear of being either alone or overwhelmed by another person**. Maybe you'll get married or divorced, or start or end an important relationship. If you tend to give too much to others, perhaps this is the time to pay more attention to what you want and need; this inevitably upsets the balance of relationships, often in a healthy, beneficial way.

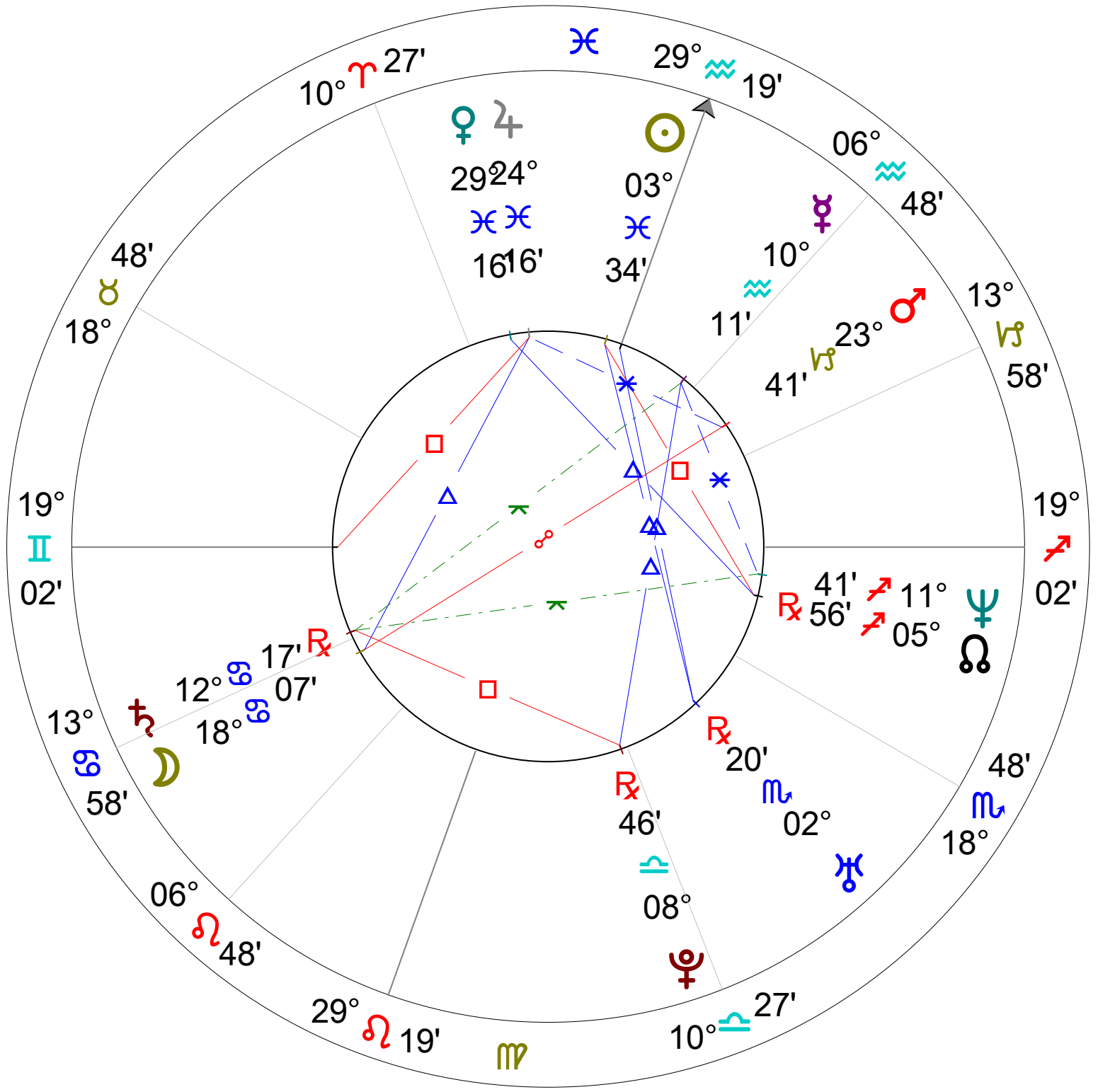
Eclipses in the 1st and 7th houses will often square planets in the 4th and 10th houses, pulling family and career concerns into the mix. These are issues that significantly affect your ability to be your own person while still enjoying satisfying, intimate relationships.

A key question for people born with prenatal eclipses in these houses – one that needs to be asked on a regular basis – is: **Am I defined by my relationships?** (Tip: “Yes” is a scary answer.) You must constantly reassess your relationship contracts, be willing to leave some relationships that limit you – and at the end of the spectrum, avoid using independence as an excuse to avoid real intimacy.

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Drew Barrymore
 Natal Chart
 Feb 22 1975, Sat
 11:51 am PST +8:00
 Culver City, CA
 34°N01'16" 118°W23'44"
 Geocentric
 Tropical
 Koch
 True Node

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WHERE YOU'VE BEEN: 2011 ECLIPSES				
Date	Type	Location	Falls in your...	Aspects to your natal planets
1/4/2011	Solar	13 Capricorn 38	7th house	opposed Moon, opposed Saturn
6/1/2011	Solar	11 Gemini 01	12th house	opposed Neptune
6/15/2011	Lunar	24 Sagittarius 23	7th house	square Jupiter
7/1/2011	Solar	9 Cancer 12	1st house	conjunct Saturn, square Pluto
11/25/2011	Solar	2 Sagittarius 36	6th house	conjunct North Node, square Sun, square Midheaven
12/10/2011	Lunar	18 Gemini 10	12th house	conjunct Ascendant
Important years in this cycle: 2006/07, 2001/02, 1997/98, 1992, 1988, 1983/84, 1979.				

eclipses in the 1st and 7th houses:

crisis in relationship

Human relationships always help us to carry on because they always presuppose further developments, a future-- and also because we live as if our only task was precisely to have relationships with other people.
 -- Albert Camus

Eclipses falling in the 1st and 7th houses symbolize a time of profound changes in the self brought about through close relationships with others. Romantic relationships, marriages, business partnerships, all take on heightened significance under this influence. For instance, a woman might marry under this influence and find that her sense of self is altered; no longer an independent, single person, she is now a “wife.”

Even when the state of our relationships is such a shambles that any change might seem welcome, we're rarely prepared for the anxiety that new relationships, even (or maybe especially) the happiest ones, inspire—anxiety that the “I” will not survive the process of becoming a “we,” anxiety that the dream won't last. These are usually times of increased, almost frantic activity in our lives, and a sense of battling for the survival of our personal identity; be sure to

take time out from “relating” (or looking for someone to relate with!) to take care of your own needs. On the other hand, you may be getting out of a relationship and rediscovering yourself—“falling in love with yourself,” so to speak. If so, be careful not to become overly self-absorbed; make time to nurture the positive relationships in your life.

“I” vs. “We”

It's likely you'll make at least one major decision about an important relationship this year, as this is a cycle for tackling the **"I" vs. "we"** dynamic in your life. And not only romantic relationships, but close friendships and business or professional partnerships are open for renegotiation.

You may enter a new partnership that causes you to worry about losing your personal identity to the needs of the relationship. Or, perhaps it's time to leave or renegotiate a stifling or inappropriate relationship, and you find yourself floundering as you relearn how to be alone.

Any changes made in your personal relationships at this time will be reminiscent of, or connected to, events that took place in your life in the most recent year of this cycle--resolution of a key relationship that began at that time, or a transition (marriage, divorce, etc.) similar to one made at that time. The workshop pages that follow will help you recall the key relationship decisions that have brought you to this moment in time.

who am I?

All questions that arise during this cycle can be traced back to a common, first-house house genesis: **Who am I?** Our most meaningful relationships are those that force us to consider both the best and the worst of ourselves; for that reason, the 7th house is known in traditional astrology both **as the house of partners and the house of open enemies**. It's not uncommon during this cycle to find important people in your life switching back and forth rapidly between these roles! There may be moments throughout the year when it seems everyone around you has changed, when of course they are probably only reflecting your own internal changes.

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When eclipses make hard aspects to natal Jupiter, you are called upon to make a leap of faith, to call upon your optimism and take some kind of important, life-altering chance. Like eclipses in the ninth house, eclipses to Jupiter describe **an intense craving for life** -- a time when you dare to have faith in yourself and your dreams. We don't always make the wisest or most practical decisions during this cycle, but life certainly gets a lot more exciting! The man who leaves his job to be an independent consultant, the woman who returns to university in middle age, the recent college graduate who sets sail on a round-the-world boat trip, are all heeding the call of Jupiter at the crossroads.

Jupiter is intimately associated with **knowledge**, and this may be a time when you embark on an educational journey, be it learning or teaching, whether in a university setting or simply in the school of hard knocks. The ultimate success of this cycle depends upon prior preparation; but even if you appear to "fail," you will still learn a lot. The call of Jupiter is the call to growth, and we never grow without risking failure and disappointment.

4

A funny thing happened to Natalie on the way to her writing career: she got pregnant. Being an astrologer, she had anticipated a solar eclipse coming up to conjunct her natal Jupiter in the 10th house, and as she puts it, "I had hoped it would be a book contract and I sent out a book proposal to several publishers; all rejected it and I found out I was pregnant instead." As it turned out, motherhood has brought growth to Natalie in ways she never could have

imagined!

We're accustomed to thinking of Jupiter as a kind of cosmic Santa Claus who grants our every wish. But what is often overlooked is Jupiter's granter of wishes we never thought of wishing.

eclipses in aspect to saturn: crisis of responsibility

responsibility, reality, authority, career and calling, boundaries, self-sufficiency

| *The buck stops here*
-- *President Harry S. Truman*

The buck stops here! This is a cycle that often leaves you feeling pushed up against a very solid wall, blocked and frustrated at every turn, and feeling victimized. With eclipses in aspect to natal Saturn, **the key is to determine where your responsibility truly lies in a given situation, and then accept it** -- but don't accept a scintilla more or less of the praise or blame than you deserve.

Pages 29-33 omitted from this sample report

Take a moment to recall the major events, themes, and feelings of the following years... Years when solar or lunar eclipses aspected similar planets and houses of your natal chart as the eclipses this year. Use the paragraphs on the preceding pages of this section to help stimulate your memory about general areas of life that may have been in a state of flux during these years.

In the words of Mark Twain, "History doesn't repeat itself, but it does rhyme." Cycles of astrology sometimes require us to dig deep to find the connections between seemingly unrelated events. Often, two entirely different kinds of events at very different stages of life can nonetheless awaken very similar emotions — in the case of eclipse cycles, these are often emotions of apprehension or its twin: excitement.

1979 (Your age: _____)

1983/84 (Your ages: _____)

1988 (Your age: _____)

1992 (Your age: _____)

1997/98 (Your ages: _____)

2001/02 (Your ages: _____)

2006/07 (Your age: _____)

YOU ARE HERE: 2012 ECLIPSES				
Date	Type	Location	Falls in your...	Aspects to your natal planets
5/20/2012	Solar	0 Gemini 20	12th house	square Sun, square Midheaven
6/4/2012	Lunar	14 Sagittarius 13	6th house	conjunct Neptune
11/13/2012	Solar	21 Scorpio 56	6th house	No major aspects within 4°
11/28/2012	Lunar	6 Gemini 46	12th house	square Sun, opposed North Node
Important years in this cycle: 2007/08, 2002/03, 1998, 1993/94, 1989, 1984, 1979/80, 1975.				

eclipses in the 12th and 6th houses:

crisis in spiritual service

Let the great soul incarnated in some woman's form...go out to service, and sweep chambers and scour floors, and its effulgent daybeams cannot be muffled or hid, but to sweep and scour will instantly appear supreme and beautiful actions, the top and radiance of human life, and all people will get mops and brooms; until, lo! suddenly the great soul has enshrined itself in some other form, and done some other deed, and that is now the flower and head of all living nature.

— Ralph Waldo Emerson "Spiritual Laws"

After the hectic activity of eclipses moving through your first house, this is a time of recuperation and healing. If you've pushed too hard with eclipses in your first house, this may be a time when you become sick or otherwise find yourself in a position of having to rely on others--or on faith. If you initiated or ended a relationship while eclipses were moving through your seventh house, this is the time when you must learn to live with the day-to-day consequences of that decision.

It's not uncommon to experience health problems and work upheavals during this cycle, but the real challenge lies in acknowledging your craving for solitary contemplation while simultaneously engaging in life-sustaining activities (work, household maintenance). Ideally, you will learn to immerse yourself in work as a

Pages 36-39 omitted from this sample report

What are you afraid of? What is the subject, situation, or type of person that fills you with dread, from which you repeatedly look away? Within that fear there is potential enlightenment that can only be yours when you conquer your nameless, faceless, intangible terrors and look life straight in the eye. It requires a certain amount of faith to step into the shadows and confront your worst fears, and **faith** is something you may question during this cycle. It may help to remember that Neptune's influence is like the process of cleaning a wound: you have to wash away what is already dead and toxic in order for the wound to heal.



During a consultation with Paulette soon after a solar eclipse conjoined her 7th house Neptune, she insisted all was well in her marriage. But when I next saw her — some five months later — she told me that soon after our reading, she discovered that her husband had been hiding catastrophic details about their financial situation. She had confronted him, and they had come closer to divorce than at any time in their seventeen-year marriage. They stayed together, but the wounds of that deception never really healed.

But eclipses to Neptune don't always spell relationship disaster. After years of hollow, dead-end relationships, Eileen fell in love with a stable, loving man and was able to "wash away" the delusional concept of herself as unworthy and unlovable. She was married one month after a lunar eclipse conjoined *her* 7th house Neptune, to a man with whom she was deeply, romantically, and mutually in love. She was also discovered a renewed spirituality, embracing her new husband's active involvement in his church. She remains married — and deeply in love — nearly a quarter century later!

eclipses in aspect to the midheaven/IC: crisis in direction

direction, career, calling, relocation, authority figures, reputation

The reputation of a man is like his shadow; it sometimes follows and sometimes precedes him, sometimes longer and sometimes shorter than his natural size.

-- French proverb

Eclipses in hard aspect to the MC/IC axis intensify the message of eclipses falling in the 10th and 4th houses. This often marks a time of **relocation** (IC) or of some significant development in your **career** (MC). Often these transitions will not go smoothly initially, but will eventually work out to very positive advantage! Expect transitions in relationships involving **authority figures**, including employers, parents, or, if you are a parent yourself, your children (with you, hopefully, in the role of authority figure!).

Since this axis has an inherent tension with the 1st and 7th houses, some of these important developments may be directly connected to your **self-image** (first house) and your **intimate relationships** with others (seventh house). An

Pages 41-46 omitted from this sample report

expression. The lesson: Do you give of yourself only to please an audience, or because it pleases you to express yourself?

This cycle may correspond to a change in your relationship with your parents or other mentors that allows you to transition to complete adulthood and leaves you feeling more free to express yourself completely and live your life exactly as you please. Also, since the fifth house rules children, eclipses to this axis occasionally find one engaged in the ultimate act of self-expression: becoming a parent.

for reflection...

How loving and creative do you feel? How spontaneous and engaged? Eclipses moving through the 11/5 axis ask this question: **Are you living your life to please yourself, or to please others?** There is a fine line between being true to yourself and being self-involved, but during this cycle it is critical that you pay attention to what you desire.

The fifth house part of this equation is the one with the creative impulse, with stories to tell and very specific ideas about how all this creativity should be expressed. You need only think of such Leo creative forces of nature as John Huston, Lucille Ball, Madonna, Alfred Hitchcock, and Dorothy Parker — to name a few — to appreciate how implacable is the determination for a creative person to be heard and acknowledged.

But the determination to be heard is nothing without an audience, or at the very least a fraternity of like-minded people to share and celebrate your vision. This is where the 11th house side of the equation comes in: **friends, audiences, and the media to broadcast the creative impulse.** If we don't pay attention to developing these connections we find ourselves with no platform for our performance. On the other hand, paying too much attention to what others think is certain death for the creative process.

When eclipses fall in the 11th and 5th houses, there is enormous tension between the desire to express and create, and the access to like minds.

Refer to the table at the beginning of this section and think back to other important years in this cycle. Was there some creative or romantic disappointment, some flaw in learning to get your message heard, the loss of some crucial loving figure in your life during those years that is affecting your ability to enjoy life in the present? Are the friends you met during these times still part of your life? Are the connections that brought you together growing deeper? Are you ignoring the cues that would bring you closer to the people you wish to connect with — or are you paying such close attention to them that you're losing track of what you wish to connect with in yourself?

**meditation for eclipses in the 11th and 5th houses:
l o s t i n t r a n s l a t i o n**

Bob: I don't want to leave.

Charlotte: So don't. Stay here with me. We'll start a jazz band.

-- from Lost in Translation

On just the right day, in very particular circumstances, a total stranger can feel like someone you've known your entire life. Jack and Rose on the *Titanic*; Francesca and Robert in *Madison County*; and Bob and Charlotte stranded in Tokyo, all find their truest selves reflected in the eyes of the unlikeliest strangers.

These are dramatic examples, but I'm sure you have a kindred spirit or two in your past. The stranger on a train who looked into your eyes and seemed to know everything about you. The friend of a friend who sat up all night and talked to you while everyone else at the party got drunk and stupid. You might have known each other for only an hour, or a few days, but you'll remember each other forever.

There may have been – okay, probably was a romantic attraction, perhaps even “love at first sight.” But that wasn't the most important dimension of your instant connection, which was that this person instinctively “got” you, knew in an instant that you are a unique treasure. This is a person who was your friend, an equal, and a fan, all rolled up into one irresistible package. Take a moment to remember this, and to savor it. Then take that feeling with you into this eclipse

Pages 49-50 omitted from this sample report

corporate executive, for instance, who retires from his job of thirty years), leaving you unsure about what to call yourself. You may actually choose to change your name at this time, whether due to marriage or simply to more accurately reflect your emerging identity.

Mercury is usually relatively close to the Sun in the birth chart, so this is often a cycle when the Sun is affected as well. As you are confronting the authority figures that reflect and influence your self-image, you also engage in a Mercurial process of defining your new image. This is a time to **tell yourself new stories** about what you want to be and how you've gotten to the place where you are. It is a cycle for mastering new skills and language for coping with your new path. It is a time when you might reach crisis in your relationships with siblings, neighbors, and coworkers – the people against which you most often evaluate and define yourself.



Why are Mercury, and Gemini, associated with naming? I suspect it has to do with Hermes, Mercury's Greek counterpart and the god of boundaries and thresholds. Astrological Mercury symbolizes the delineation of our personal boundaries, clarifying where we begin and the rest of the world ends. Few items in our biographical satchel contain as much power as our name to set us apart as distinct from others.

I've known a number of women who have legally changed their names for reasons other than marriage. One told me she changed her name because she wished to distance herself from the family who gave her that name. Another wanted a unique, creative moniker; yet another simply claimed that she didn't identify with her name - "I'm not that person." **They took the reigns of Mercury's power and chose names that told the world a new story about who they are.** Renaming yourself can be disorienting to everyone who knows you - but a way of claiming the sacred territory of your true self.

eclipses in aspect to mars: crisis of survival

survival, sexuality, anger and conflict, work, health

Every day, in this mostly male world, you have to figure out, "Do I get this by charming somebody? By being strong? Or by totally allowing my aggression out?" You've got to risk failure. The minute you want to keep power—you've become subservient, somebody who does work you don't believe in.

-- Paula Weinstein, movie company executive

High noon, in the middle of a hot, dusty western town. Just you, and a grizzled, hard-bitten man with no name — plus a few thousand hungry flies and a couple of real itchy trigger fingers. Only one of you will walk away.

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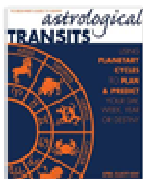
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