

# PREDICTIVE ASTROLOGY

*The Eagle and the Lark*

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To my father  
who gave me the Eagle . . .

and my mother  
who gave me the Lark.

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## THE FABLE OF THE EAGLE AND THE LARK

Once upon a time there was a lark who was renowned for her beautiful singing. Her song was judged by all who heard her to be the sweetest sound on earth. From dawn to dusk she would sing her song and as she sang, the beginnings of a desire grew. The desire was to sing for the gods.

She realized that if she could fly high enough the gods would be able to hear her. So the lark leapt into the air and flew as high as she could, but her wings tired and although she sang, she knew that the gods could not hear her. Determined now more than ever, she decided that she would climb the highest mountain and then fly from the peak. But even this could not get her high enough to be heard in heaven.

One day she saw an eagle soaring high in the sky, far higher than she had ever flown and she knew with unbounded certainty that if she could fly as high as the eagle, the gods would hear her beautiful song. So she watched the eagle and when he landed, she approached the huge bird. The small but brave lark explained her dilemma to the great eagle and asked if he would carry her on his back so that, together, they could entertain the gods.

Now the eagle was aware of the gods because he could fly in their domain and yet, ashamed of his raucous voice, he never had the courage to contact them. Eagerly he agreed to carry the tiny lark.

Tentatively she climbed onto his back and with a stretch and a flap of his mighty wings, he set aloft. Higher and higher they soared. The lark was almost too scared to look down and yet onward still they flew. The lark had never been this high. She could see the whole world spread out beneath her. And then, all of a sudden, they were there. The tiny lark knew that now it was her turn, the eagle having done his part. Firmly she stood up on the eagle's back and, filling her lungs with air, began to sing. Heaven was filled with her glorious music. The gods were astonished at the power of the eagle and enthralled by the beauty of the lark's song. The eagle was no longer

ashamed and the lark was filled with joy. Together, as a team, they had brought music to the gods.

Since time began, the human race has quested the future. Whether it be the knowledge of a successful hunt, the weather patterns, the movement of the enemy or the outcome of a journey, to know the future was to have an advantage. This need was so great that every tribe or clan had its own seer, sage, shaman or priest. This person's role was to explain the unexplainable and give meanings and patterns to seemingly random events, thereby reducing fear and creating greater stability. If the tribe's seer died, then the tribe would "find" or project these skills onto another individual.

The human race has come along way since those first early scratchings on cave walls. But the need for the seer has not changed. In our modern world there is still the unexplained, the uncertain future and the need in the community for some individuals to "see" ahead of time. So the modern community seeks out individuals who, willingly or unwillingly, will take on the role of the seer.

There are many pathways which lend themselves to the ancient projection of seership. Scientists predicting outcomes, the bureau of meteorology predicting weather, election forecasters predicting results, and the economists predicting the economy are seers on the side of the establishment. Clairvoyants, psychics, tarot readers, numerologists, tealeaf readers and astrologers are, in the public's eye, the seers of the non-establishment.

Thus as we decide to study astrology to fulfill our own needs, all too often, within a few weeks of commencing study, the student's friends will not only want to know about themselves but also want the student to be their seer. The student's personal quest for truth and meaning in life thus becomes burdened by the community's ancient longing for a seer.

Predictive work in astrology is also enmeshed with the collective's need for mystery, wonder and spirituality. So as astrologers we find that the pathway to predictive astrology, which begins as a personal quest for knowledge, turns into this minefield of other people's expectations.

In order to negotiate a clearer path through this minefield astrologers have put a great deal of energy into developing new

predictive techniques, and in a striving to fulfil the needs of the community we keep trying to build a better, and therefore, safer wheel.

But herein lies the paradox: for if predictive astrology is a quest, then it will unconsciously be considered unreachable, for it is in the nature of a quest that it should not be achieved too easily. In addition the projection of seer can also be so overpowering that no sane individual would want to carry it. So astrologers can, like Jason of Argonaut fame, constantly seek, without recognizing what they have already achieved, and place predictive astrology so high above them that, no matter how hard they try, it cannot possibly be obtained.

Thus the first point to be made in pursuit of reliable predictive astrology is: Recognize that you can already predict using astrology and how impressive this is to a lay person. For example, if you know that a person is going to have transiting Pluto conjunct the natal Ascendant at a given time, then as an astrologer you would expect some event to occur in that person's life. If you know no more than that, your prediction to the lay person seems amazing. In addition, provided the birth time is correct, you can do this with a high level of accuracy. Acknowledgement of such simple feats in astrology, considered awe-inspiring by the general public, allows predictive work to be taken down from its pedestal. By recognizing the simplicity of these skills and how easily they can be taught to another, the minefield of projection becomes a little less dangerous.

However, this minefield can still exist and faced with this difficulty astrologers have three possible paths that they can follow: the first is to abandon the whole issue and firmly announce that predictive work cannot be done. This is not really an option but an external appearance adopted to push back the community's need for a seer.

The second approach is through new methods and techniques such as high-powered computing, micro-aspecting and employing the ultimate in precision calculations. Reams of data are produced with this approach, and astrologers are swamped by the numerous echoes of the same information rearranged in an infinite number of mathematical ways. The average astrologer, confronted with this approach, perceives that the journey lies through a mathematical maze of confusion.



The third approach is one of intuition. These astrologers abandon mathematical techniques and, without any real understanding of the tools that they are using, leap into the deep end and “go-by-what-feels-right.” The difficulty with this approach is that it cannot be taught, explained or repeated and students following this example can find themselves in an empty void of vagueness and disillusion.

Neither of the last two approaches is in error. The problem occurs when they are used exclusively. For astrology is both an art and a science and has to have both components in balance for the best possible results. So an astrologer’s intuition is like the tiny lark in the fable and the techniques and methodology of an astrologer’s craft, the mighty eagle. Separately they are both valid and valuable. Together they can achieve results before unreachable.

The next step is to recognize when and how to use intuition. What is the point of intuitively draining your metaphysical batteries to reach a conclusion that could have been logically derived? Far better to sing with your intuition after logic has gone as far as it can go.

The boundaries between eagle and lark must be observed and each one used in its proper time and place. Too often one sees eagles balancing on the backs of squashed larks as astrologers derive immense volumes of data from confused or misunderstood origins. Similarly, if astrologers are not clear on what they have predicted via techniques and what they have predicted via intuitive leaps, then it is very difficult to know where they may have gone wrong and how to correct it.

This book is about the eagle, its strength and weakness, and where he can go wrong. It is about the lark and when to let her sing.

The first step in the successful use of the eagle is to understand the nature of the beast. Thus it is important to acknowledge that the origins of astrology are in the world of science. Indeed it is the original science and its metaphysical doorways are reached through corridors of mathematics and astronomy. In other words, an understanding of number-crunching and the logic of the techniques used are needed by the astrologer. It is easy in this computerized world to push a few buttons, get a horoscope printed out and let intuition flow,

bypassing all the problems of learning how to calculate charts, progressions, returns, and so on. What flows, of course, is the song of the lark and if the song is beautiful, what a shame that it's sung from the ground rather than from the back of an eagle.

There is an old rule and a valid one: "You only get out of something what you put in." Astrology is based on science and calculations and it seems, from my experience, that unless you are prepared to "do your apprenticeship" and learn the basis of the craft, the doors that astrology can open remain closed. The lark may sing but it has no way of reaching the gods.

### THE FIRST STEP—FATE THE RAW MATERIAL OF ASTROLOGY

Once you sort out the values of, and boundaries between, technique and intuition, you will be taking the first step towards predictive astrology. Then, with eagle under one arm and lark under the other, you will find yourself looking straight into the face of fate.

If we can read the dynamic patterns of a birth chart to give the timing and descriptions of future events, then we must not only acknowledge some "master plan" to which the individual is subject but also realize it is the very raw material with which we are working. For as astrologers we work with fate, just as a cobbler works with leather and a blacksmith works with metals.

Therefore, like any other trade or craft, we need to understand the raw materials of our trade in order to produce results. A blacksmith, in making a horse shoe, does not expect to produce a pound of butter for the simple reason that it is not within the capabilities of the raw material.

So what are the limitations of our raw material? What can it do? What can't it do? How much of a person's life is dictated by fate? Just as the blacksmith has to know the metal's limitations, the astrologer needs to know about fate's limitations. These "how much," "how often," type questions do not have easy answers but for the predictive astrologer they cannot be avoided.

Astrologers can only work with the part of an individual that is subject to fate. Thus the accuracy of any prediction is

limited by the amount of involvement the individual has with fate.

So how much is a person's life dictated by fate? If the answer is "all of it," then predictive work would be easy, with nothing being left to chance. Astrology would be able to accurately and consistently predict every event of a person's life. It would become a science belonging to the world of that which could be measured, weighed, tasted and tested, with human beings being equal to a well-designed robot. News broadcasts would tell us what was going to happen, rather than what had happened.

If, on the other hand, the answer is "none of it," then astrologers for the last 5000 years have been barking up the wrong tree. Since I also find this difficult to believe, the only answer left is that some of a person's life is influenced by this master plan or fate.

If this question was not difficult enough, there is another one. Does the effect of fate on a given individual's life vary from childhood to adulthood, from situation to situation, or not at all?

We are now sailing into very deep seas, and indeed many students faced with these questions might throw up their hands and walk away. But serious predictive astrologers must be concerned with defining the raw material of the craft and need working answers before the quest of predictive astrology can be achieved.

An approach, therefore, to the above unanswerable questions is to consider that there are two major forces at work: one called fate—the raw material of astrologers—and the other called life or free will—the element that is not contained in a chart. The hypothesis that we as astrologers believe is that fate is life's demand for wholeness, or, put more simply, it is our role as a human being to strive for wholeness.

This fated struggle for wholeness that life experiences via a person is represented by the journeys, stories and problems contained in the birth-chart. Fate strives to teach by placing obstacles in the pathway of life, a little like lessons being set for a pupil. We can then make a choice: we can choose to learn quickly and accurately within the parameters of the lessons or we can continually fail. This is the choice that we have and fate

could well have been the first to say: "You can lead a horse to water . . ."

If we pass the test, then fate will move on to the next set of lessons, like a pupil graduating to a higher class, but the lessons will not cease.

So in this model, and it is only a model, fate at a particular time presents the individual with an option, or lesson, arranged in a variety of ways, a little like a multiple-choice list. The individual, being fated by the quest for wholeness, selects one or more options on the list, either consciously or unconsciously. We would like to think an option is selected based on the individual's desire for maximum personal growth but an individual has free will in these matters. So the individual's ability to choose an option is assigned to free will, and allocated to fate is the nature and timing of the multiple-choice list.

Thus astrology can predict the timing and style of the forthcoming events but it is the human part—the part not shown in a chart—which chooses the exact expression of the event.

This model for the marriage of fate and free will may seem simple but it does allow predictive astrology to take on some shape and boundaries. Since astrology works with fate, we can expect to be able to predict the timing and nature of the options fate is going to present to the individual, while at the same time recognizing that the options on the list are also going to vary, depending on how well the individual has "learnt lessons" beforehand.

Defining and predicting the exact option may be possible but not necessarily probable. This type of prediction—picking the exact event—would fall into the realm of the lark or intuition, because the actual choice made by the individual, according to our model of fate and free will, belongs to the free will part.

This model is by no means complete. Indeed no model or answers to the questions that have been raised will be totally satisfactory. But the dilemma of predictive astrology is that a model has to be created. The advantage of the above model, or indeed any model, is that you will know what you can and can't predict, when to use your intuition and when your astrological logic will be sufficient.

For example, you could look at a client's transiting Uranus conjunct the natal Sun, define the timing of the transit, give an understanding to the client of the types of events that could occur within the timing and then change gears into the intuitive mode and, using your knowledge of the client and of life itself, indicate the option that will be the most likely.

If you find that you are wrong, then it is an easy matter to see if your astrological logic was at fault. A case of a faulty eagle. Or was it your intuition? The lark needing a bit of work?

The real value of such a system is that the feedback on predictive work can be used constructively.

Predictive astrology is a series of decisions which eventually lead to conclusions. If the conclusions are incorrect, then knowledge of the decisions made along the way is an invaluable aid to improving the results. But one of the first decisions that you have to make as a predictive astrologer is to define a model of your understanding of fate.

## *Chapter One*

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# THE ALPHABET

Every language has an alphabet and predictive astrology is no different. What the astrologer is trying to do in formulating a prediction is to take the language of the Cosmos and translate that information into the conscious world of the client. The way in which we produce this information from the Cosmos is via the predictive system we use; i.e., transits, progressions, and so on. However, no matter what system you used, there is one common thread and that is the definition of the basic units or alphabet with which the language or data is written.

The alphabet of astrology is made up of the planets, aspects, houses and signs. With these basic components the Cosmos can spin a million or so stories. In a natal chart, the stories are magical and mysterious, involving mythology and the history of a person's race. In such a world the language creates very complex messages, for people have their whole lives to "tinker" with the particular coded messages termed a natal chart.

However, in the world of predictive astrology, the information is only present for a short period of time and there is no time to explore the concept being presented. There is just

time to hear the basic message and to act on it before the next signal comes in. So although the language may be undiscovered Shakespeare, the perception is of a simple dialogue.

Whatever the method of dynamic predictive astrology used, by its very definition it must be a temporary connection to the natal chart. The dynamic planet (progressed or transiting) makes itself felt by way of an aspect and thus connects to the chart; it then symbolically transmits information or energy and, finally, disconnects. It is not there forever, like a natal aspect. It is transient—a tourist traveling through an unknown country.

Thus, the dynamic planet comes onto the stage of clients' lives like an invader or intruder, the pragmatist in the plot. The rest of the actors (natal planets) on stage have to deal with this energy, which is seen as raw, young and not integrated into the system. For this reason the dynamic planets and aspects, unlike their natal cousins, do not have time to grow and mature in their expression, and consequently take on slightly different and considerably simpler meanings.

For example, say Jane has Saturn opposing the Sun in her natal chart. She has her whole life to work with it, grow it, develop it, mature it. The inferiority complex in youth that this aspect can indicate would most likely convert to an achievement drive in adulthood. Granted this achievement drive could be spurred on by a fear of failure fueled by feelings of inadequacy, but Jane has worked with this aspect and can thus get better results from it. This is an aspect which is part of her, which over the years, has gained rapport with other facets of herself. On the other hand, if having transiting Saturn opposing her natal Sun, restrictions and commitment suddenly come thundering into her life, with none of the subtleties of the above mentioned natal aspect. Before she has time to "turn the tables on it" and mature it, the transit is gone.

So in working with predictive astrology, the key issue is to recognize this simplicity. The language of astrology is rich and beautiful, but in predictive work its rich symbolism is put into simple packages. The symbols do not lose their beauty, they are simply less complex in their expression. This concept can be encapsulated by the KISS principle—Keep It Simple Sweetheart—which indeed is a golden rule of predictive as-

trology. So with simplicity as the Rosetta Stone of prediction, let's look at the alphabet of our language.

## PLANETS IN PREDICTIVE WORK

The following are some keywords, which are by no means absolute, for the luminaries and planets when they are involved in dynamic astrology.

### **Sun**

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*Key Principle:* life, vitality, the very being, self.

*Rate of travel through the zodiac:* about 1° per day.

*Time to travel through a chart:* 1 year.

*Use in predictive work:* receives transits and makes and receives progressions.

*Figures:* father, authority figures of any type, a famous person, a superior person.

The Sun is the foundation stone of the human being. In a natal chart, it represents the life journey and story which will be undertaken by the individual seeking awareness. Thus the Sun sign is important, for it reveals the myth or story that the individual follows through life. Transits and progressions to or from this luminary indicate events in the journey of life and a reassessment of personal identity. The person may experience this as life-threatening, or life-supporting. Either way, it is like turning the page in the story of life and getting on to the next "adventure."

### **Moon**

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*Key Principle:* mother, feminine, nurturing, children, body or kinesthetic responses to world, i.e., emotions.

*Rate of travel through the zodiac:* about 12° per day.

*Time to travel through a chart:* 27-1/2 days.

*Use in predictive work:* receives transits and makes and receives progressions.



*Figures:* mother, children, loved ones that you nurture, people who need physical help.

Dynamic contacts to the Moon will color emotional processes. You experience changes in emotional responses, changes in eating habits, changes in body rhythms. Things that are dear to you, things that are part of your security system could change. The Moon, more than any other planet or luminary, takes on a very strong bias from the sign that it occupies and this should always be considered when dealing with this luminary.

### **Mercury**\_\_\_\_\_

*Key Principle:* methods of information-collecting, processing and distributing.

*Rate of travel through the zodiac:* up to 2°30' per day.

*Time to travel through a chart:* about 1 year.

*Use in predictive work:* receives transits and makes and receives progressions.

*Figures:* young people, or people who deal with information or stationery.

Dynamic contacts to Mercury herald events concerning paperwork, study, writing, talking, short journeys and a great deal of movement. New ways of gaining information may be encountered by a spectrum of methods from finding a new bookshop to having prophetic visions.

### **Venus**\_\_\_\_\_

*Key Principle:* relating, relationships, resources.

*Rate of travel through the zodiac:* up to 1°15' per day.

*Time to travel through a chart:* about 1 year.

*Use in predictive work:* receives transits and makes and receives progressions.

*Figures:* young women, artists, lovers, or money-handlers.

Dynamic contacts to Venus will emphasize your relationship to the world or to an individual. You could find yourself changing your attitude to a group of friends or falling in or out of love. Your sense of worth is questioned, the value of things, such as friendships or relationships, is examined. You become aware of resources—emotional, spiritual or financial—and this is a time when these resources can be stretched.

## **Mars**

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*Key Principle:* focused action, directed motivation, drive.

*Rate of travel through the zodiac:* up to 0°40' per day.

*Time to travel through a chart:* about 2-1/2 years.

*Use in predictive work:* mostly for receiving transits, and progressions. Only used for making transits indicating acute days, or days of great activity. It also has some value as it transits through the houses, showing where the current motivation is at the moment. Also used for making or receiving progressions.

*Figures:* young, rough, strong, motivated, sexual, angry or coarse males or females.

When a chart is receiving a Mars contact it will indicate that anger, motivation, or drive is being activated. The reason is enthused with an idea or feeling. This idea may plunge the reason into physical activities, to experience strong sexual motivation, encounter angry people, or even cause the person to be part of an accident.

## **Jupiter**

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*Key Principle:* expansion of the world view, growth, movement.

*Rate of travel through the zodiac:* about 30° a year.

*Time to travel through a chart:* 12 years.

*Use in predictive work:* mainly for its ability to make transits and receive progressions.

*Figures:* grandfather, teacher, guru, traveler, adventurer.

When Jupiter is being emphasized by dynamic astrology, there are going to be changes to your worldview. What you

are learning, what you are mastering, what you believe in are all areas that can be affected. Jupiter is the energy of expansiveness, whether you like it or not. It takes joy in the big picture and will influence life by the desire to expand the individual's world. The outward effect of this can be to bring study (mental expansion) or travel (physical expansion of the worldview) into your life. If it is impossible for the world to expand due to the life circumstance, then Jupiter will simply change the life circumstance so that an expansion can occur. This may not be a joyful event.

In addition, it would seem that people with a strong natal Jupiter (or who have a large dollop of Sagittarius in the chart) find that transits from or progressions to Jupiter are too excessive, leading to obsessive, manic types of overreactions which generally leave them exhausted at the end of the period.

### Saturn

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*Key Principle:* structure, responsibility, commitment, authority, building; to take shape and form; consolidation of one's position in life.

*Rate of movement through the zodiac:* about 12° per year.

*Time to travel through a chart:* about 29 years.

*Use in predictive work:* in both giving and receiving transits as well as receiving progressions.

*Figures:* any person or group who can wield authority over you. Individuals who intimate. Individuals or groups for which you are responsible

Saturn is the planet of material form. Its issues are about being here now, being a physical human being in a physical body coping with our physical needs and dealing with the consequences of previous physical actions. It would seem at times that Saturn is the nemesis of the human race. For, if there is going to be productive or useful growth (Jupiter) there must be a time of pause, and consolidation—a time of restraint, a time of testing. Since all life as we know it is subject to this pulse of expansion, contraction, then the indicator of the times

of contraction—Saturn—becomes a very important planet in the astrologer's toolbox.

Thus whether it is giving or receiving, in predictive work, it is always strongly felt. When Saturn is making a contact to the personal planets, it suggests periods of having to accept the consequences of one's actions. In its interaction with the outer planets, Saturn produces landmarks in the map of a person's life, showing the times and ways that the individual will struggle against the weight of the physical world and its needs in the search for awareness.

When people are young (pre-Saturn return), Saturn contacts are usually experienced as limiting and restricting, even possibly intimidating. The Saturnian figures, symbolically father, the law, teacher or boss, come to the surface during the contact to enable the person to be exposed to restrictions in order to learn lessons of responsibility and containment. These same contacts may yield welcome increases in responsibility (job promotion) or stability in the life for a mature individual.

Whatever the stage in life, a Saturn transit will have a common theme of work, *hard* work. Under a Saturn contact, a person is held to account, for better or for worse. The following is a guideline to the transits of Saturn:

**Saturn-Sun:** increase of responsibility or being "under the thumb."

**Saturn-Moon:** loneliness, isolation, feeling unsupported; needing to consolidate resources.

**Saturn-Mercury:** serious decisions, burdensome paperwork, study.

**Saturn-Venus:** making or breaking commitments in relationships; restrictions upon financial affairs.

**Saturn-Mars:** arthritis, physical restraint, physical injury, being exhausted, hard labor.

**Saturn-Jupiter:** controlled expansion.

**Saturn-Saturn:** major life phase: see cycles.

**Saturn-Uranus:** frustration, slow progress in achieving new goals. Doing something which is ground breaking.

**Saturn-Neptune:** illness, tiredness, depletion of resources, despair, to be without hope. This is the major signifier of health problems in predictive astrology.

**Saturn-Pluto:** blocked energy leading to outbursts that could be violent; melancholy, darkness of feelings; being in a "black hole."

**Saturn-North Node:** taking responsibility with a group; taking on a fated commitment which is part of the life journey.

**Saturn-South Node:** increase in responsibilities to do with family or "tribe;" fated, karmic bonds are changed in such a way that the person has to carry a greater load.

**Saturn-Ascendant:** taking on greater responsibilities; being seen as capable of handling authority; given authority.

**Saturn-Descendant:** reviewing and changing commitments in relationships, either business or personal. Being realistic about the nature of a relationship or business partnership.

**Saturn-MC:** greater responsibility in the career; being seen to stand on one's own feet.

**Saturn-IC:** family commitments which tie a person to the home; possible problems with the father figure.

**Saturn-Vertex/Anti-vertex:** encountering authority figures, or encountering a long-awaited responsibility.

The three outer planets (Uranus, Neptune and Pluto) tend to belong more to the collective rather than to the individual. Particularly with transits, they take on a generational flavor. For example, natal Neptune receiving a conjunction from transiting Pluto will be occurring to everybody born within a twelve-month period. Everyone may have the transit but few would be aware of it. Even a Mars transit squaring natal Pluto will be affecting *your* generation. Watch for the expression of the energy in the world of fashion, on the nightly news, or in the papers, but don't look for it in an individual's chart unless that individual is a world leader in fashion or politics, and so on.

However, when the outer planets form relationships to the inner natal planets, they all challenge, in some manner, the Saturn structure that exists in that area of the person's life.

Saturn and Jupiter can be seen as a harbor mouth; inside the harbor, we can control the sea, break waters, piers, docks and so on. However, beyond the harbor the ship is exposed to the uncontrollable open sea. Jupiter beckons us out of the harbor, Saturn tells us to be well-prepared for the journey and Uranus, Neptune and Pluto are the open sea—the collective. No matter how well prepared the vessel, events can and will occur.

## **Uranus**

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*Key Principle:* fast unexpected change; a turnaround, an awakening. Freedom. The sudden storm at sea.

*Rate of travel through the zodiac:* about 4° per year.

*Time to travel through a chart:* about 84 years.

*Use in predictive work:* generally used for its ability to make transits and receive progressions.

*Figures:* any person who is considered to be unconventional, independent, chaotic, eccentric, or rebellious. In addition the exciting person, the person who brings change. Intellectual and or non-committed.

Uranus is about change, unexpected, seemingly without pattern. The desire to break patterns of responsibility. Not necessarily to be free of the responsibility but rather just to be free. The wild card, electric, weird, fast, non-emotional, life-in-the-fast-lane. The energy of this planet is chaos. This may be welcomed, or may be feared. Spontaneous change by way of a general non-emotional reaction, because the individual does not have the luxury of time between events to brood or ponder. A ship in a storm does not have time to meditate on the problem.

When Saturn has our life firmly in its grasp via order, routine, habits and life style, Uranus will come thundering into our world, to alter, change, or confront us with the vulnerability of our "nice safe secure systems."

The energy of Uranus seems to radiate out of a person when it is strongly transiting a chart. Lightbulbs can pop,