Transits of the Year 2003

for

Bill Gates, born 28 Oct 1955

Nr 25125.1-16 from 1.2003
The selected transits for this year

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To every thing there is a season

To every thing there is a season, and it probably isn’t a coincidence either that you are reading your Transits of the Year just now. Just as your watch may show you whether it’s time to get up, to go off for work or to have a break, the cosmic clock in the sky is hinting at what is important in your life just now. This clock, however, has got more than ten hands - the planets -, and its scale - your birth chart - isn’t too easy to read, either. The Transits of the Year are meant to help you there.

The Transits of the Year relate to the transits of the current planets over all relevant points in your birth chart. The observation of transits is among the oldest techniques in astrology. The fact that transits do indeed hint at important tendencies and issues of life is one of the few things that all astrologers will agree upon. However, pointing at a certain issue is not the same as predicting an event. Let’s just stay with the above example of the watch: If it shows seven a.m. it may be time to get up, but the watch itself doesn’t cause the getting up - you can and must decide for yourself what to do.

Therefore our analysis doesn’t aim at predicting future events. The meaning of modern astrology is to teach people to understand those forces that permeate not only man and his world, but also each and every one of us in a special way. Astrology isn’t meant to suggest certain decisions to you but rather to give you the information that can make it easier for you to make the right decisions - wisely suited to each individual situation in which you find yourself during your life.

How to use

If you are looking at your "Transits of the Year" for the first time, it is advisable that you read, after the introduction, only chapter II. There you will find interpretations of the most important transits for this year.

The other chapters of the "Transits of the Year" should not be read just one after the other. Why? Unfortunately, the transits to your natal chart - just like the important events in your life - do not happen neatly one after another; on the contrary, they usually come as quite a disorderly mess. Often there are many different forces at work simultaneously, which can be of quite a controversial nature. Some issues have a long range that extends over several months or even years, others are much more shortlived and last only a couple of days - but then again these may be all the more intense. There are so many different things happening during one year that it would only be confusing if you tried to understand and take it in all at once.
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* Jupiter Conjunct Jupiter

**II. THE MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES OF THE YEAR**

In this chapter you will find interpretations of the most important transits to your natal chart. They are long ranging, basic issues which will often be relevant to you for several months and sometimes even years.

* Jupiter Conjunct Jupiter

3 August 2003 until 24 August 2003: This transit occurs at eleven- or twelve-year intervals, when you are eleven, twenty-three, thirty-five and so on. It indicates the beginning of a new cycle of growth and progress. However, for people who are not very skilled in astrology, this transit is often the focus of exaggerated expectations. They expect sudden windfalls, great wealth or luck, and all kinds of wonderful opportunities. And these things do happen sometimes with this transit, but most people should expect more subtle, but equally useful effects.

Events now, such as meetings with persons or even changes in your psyche, open the way for you to become wiser and more mature and to have a broader understanding of the world. At this time you will reach out consciously and unconsciously and ask more of the world, but at the same time you are willing to give more to the world.

This transit can make you feel either more demanding or more giving toward others, but you are not likely to get much out of it if you think only of what you can get. The law of conservation of energy in the universe says that you can transform the energies in your life from one form to another, but you cannot create them out of nothing. This transit represents a time when you should see whether you are doing that in your life.
Concretely, you can expect persons who are good for you to come into your life. Or circumstances will arise that give you increased freedom or an opportunity to do something that you have never done before. Educational opportunities may come to you at this time, or a chance to travel. Sometimes this transit does in fact bring about financial advantage, but you should not sit around passively waiting for it to happen. This is an excellent time to invest or expand in business as long as you are very careful not to overdo it or overextend yourself.

* Saturn Square Moon

End of July 2003 until beginning of May 2004: This transit can be quite a difficult time for your personal and domestic life. On the psychological level you may feel lonely and isolated from others. You may feel depressed and undeserving of love. Sometimes remembered past actions may make you feel guilty that you have not lived up to your own expectations.

Externally this transit can create difficulties in personal relationships, especially with women, because your emotional communication seems to be cut off. Your job may make demands that conflict with your domestic responsibilities, so that you are forced to neglect one or the other. Your parents may also be a source of concern at this time.

Saturn represents the structure and formation of your ego, your sense of individuality and uniqueness, while the Moon represents your need for connections and roots. The conflict at this time is between aspects of these two principles. Somehow it is difficult to be yourself and do what you must, to maintain your relationships and get much-needed emotional support and reinforcement from your loved ones.

These elements of your life are not truly in conflict, for they are complementary principles that need to be properly balanced with each other. The problem is that one element has got out of control at the expense of the other, so a time of readjustment is at hand. Usually it is the Saturnine element that has got out of control and the Lunar principle that has suffered. This situation is the underlying cause of the loneliness and depression that often accompany this transit.

You may have to make important changes in your life priorities. You may have to de-emphasize your work in favor of your emotional and personal life, or you may have to break off a relationship that has interfered unnecessarily with your work. In either case, you must restore the balance between these two aspects of your life so that your life will run smoothly again.

* Saturn Square Mars

Beginning of August 2003 until end of May 2004: This can be a time of intense ego conflicts with others, and you are very likely to be the loser if you are not careful. Your ambitions in various areas may provoke others to try to stop you because they feel threatened. Or it may be that you come across people whose goals are intrinsically opposed to yours. This may happen in any area of your life; most commonly it will affect your work and social life, but it can also affect your personal and domestic life.

During your first run-ins with others, you will probably be very bitter and antagonistic, but you will also become cautious about venting your anger. The result is that you will constantly be in a state of suppressed rage. Then someone who has nothing to do with your mood may be the victim of a sudden unexpected burst of anger. Needless to say, that is not the way to win anyone over.
You must not get discouraged by the failures you experience at this time. This period will not last, and you can consider it a testing time for yourself and your ambitions. There is no need to assume that your present setbacks are permanent.

There are dangers associated with this transit. It can signify accidents and injuries, especially broken bones. You are not particularly lucky under this transit, so you should not take unnecessary risks. You could get hurt, although you should not go about expecting that.

III. FURTHER TRANSITS OF THE SLOW MOVING PLANETS

Hereafter you will find, in chronological order, the remaining transits of the slow moving planets. The more important ones are marked with a * in the headline; also, the according bars denoting their respective time spans on top of the pages are a bit stronger than the other ones.

As already mentioned in the introduction, this chapter is not meant to be read all at once. Please choose a certain time and read about the according issues either by looking them up in the index (page three) or by using the graphical table (page two) which will also refer you to the according pages.

Jupiter Trine Moon

End of August 2002 until beginning of May 2003: Usually you will feel very good with this transit, quite optimistic and generous. You will be concerned about the welfare of those around you and will want to protect the people you love. At this time you will attract favorable circumstances and resources with little effort, which will seem very pleasant now. But you should not expect this to keep on happening indefinitely. In particular, people may come after you to meet you for some reason, and these people could be quite beneficial to you in business or personal affairs. Regardless of your own sex, you may very well benefit from women during this transit.

In some people this transit may stimulate an interest in religious and spiritual thought, but your views would be more strongly concerned with ethics and morality than with a more mystical approach to religion.

At the very least you can expect to feel quite good at this time, and even if nothing tremendous comes out of this transit, you will have a feeling of satisfaction and of being at peace with yourself.

Jupiter Sextile Mars

Mid September 2002 until mid May 2003: This is a time of high energy and independent initiative. You feel very self-confident and capable of tackling almost anything within reason. It is a good time to start a project, and most activities that you take up now should have a successful outcome. However, you must take some positive action in order to get the most out of this transit. It brings you opportunities, but you have to pick them up. However, this should not be much of a problem because this transit usually makes you feel like taking action.

You are unusually clear now about what you intend to do in any situation. Your will is strong, and you aim at achieving certain very definite goals. You can act decisively and with conviction. Under a transit like this you can convince other
people of your point of view and get them to follow your lead. In fact, this is an unusually good time for working with other people because you can get others to identify their interests with yours.

Everything you do is aimed at enlarging your sphere of interests. You do not act out of petty motives, always having high-minded and high-level goals in mind. Others will respect your obvious integrity, which will make them more willing to help you.

If you have to go to a court of law at this time, the proceedings should turn out to your benefit. In fact, the chances are that you will be able to work out a compromise that will be advantageous to both parties.

Professional success is likely at this time, because of your excellent sense of timing and your ability to take advantage of every opportunity that comes along. You should be able to advance yourself without alienating others. They will recognize that your success is well deserved.

**Saturn Sextile Jupiter**

End of August 2002 until end of May 2003: During this time you should work very hard to take advantage of every opportunity for growth and expansion that presents itself. This transit gives you the ability to work very hard and patiently in building up your life. It is not a period of flamboyant expansion, but what you build will have an enduring quality that will help you withstand any heavy crises that may arise in the future. This transit requires that you work for these results, but it does not provide the drive to work. It merely gives you opportunities to work effectively. Its effects are so subtle that the transit could pass without making much of an impact. But if you allow this to happen, you may experience difficult times when Saturn comes to either conjunction or square of your natal Jupiter.

This transit favors most business and professional activities. You have the ability to handle the broad, general planning of projects as well as the details. You can work on projects that you might be too impatient to work on at other times. This will impress your employers and other superiors, and you will find their good will useful as you advance in your work.

This is also a favorable period for intellectual and spiritual growth, because now you can see the restrictions in your life as elements that provide form and structure, not as just obstacles to total freedom. In a very real way, your life derives its form and individuality as much from what you cannot do as from what you can do. This transit gives you the ability to see the structure of your life in such a way that you can gain more control over it. Whatever your long-range goals are, you will be able to build a foundation for success at this time. Don’t waste this opportunity.

**Saturn Sextile Pluto**

End of August 2002 until end of May 2003: During this transit you will be able to withstand great tests of strength if you have to. Your own power and internal strength form a structure that can withstand considerable difficulty. You can work hard and focus tremendous energy on the tasks before you.

Within yourself you have some understanding of the forces that make you an individual. You know exactly what you can demand of yourself, and you push yourself to the limit, but not beyond. Consequently this can be a time of great achievements.
At the same time you will voluntarily restrict the focus of your energies, which makes them even more effective. You understand what area to work on, so your focused energy hits exactly the right target. Fortunately this principle applies to work that you do within yourself as well as in the external world.

In the outer world the manifestations of this transit are many and varied. First, you will probably work harder than you have in many years, and the work will be extremely productive. People will see that your achievements have grown directly out of your inner being, that they are a product of your own growth. In your work, your employers will see that you apply yourself with unusual diligence to the tasks at hand, and they will be favorably impressed. They will recognize that you are someone to be reckoned with. This may well be a time of professional advancement.

**Saturn Trine Neptune**

Mid August 2002 until beginning of June 2003: At this time you will reach a new understanding of your own being and the world around you. In recent years you have probably been through periods of great doubt, uncertainty and confusion. Although those periods were painful they have contributed to your new view of the world. Now is the time to deepen and take advantage of your new understanding. This is an excellent time for studies that can raise your consciousness, such as yoga, occult metaphysics, spiritualism and mysticism. Now you are able to study these subjects and put them into practice in your everyday life. They will not be purely intellectual or mental activities - you can make them real and useful!

At this time your own ego involvement in your activities is low. You are more likely than at other times to act for altruistic reasons. You can devote yourself selflessly to movements and activities that help you bring your ideas to reality. Yet you do not feel that you are denying yourself, for everything you do seems to be a logical expression of what you are.

Your ideals are not in conflict with the realities in your life at this time. They are in creative balance, with the ideal giving form and the real giving life. Your approach is one of calm sober reflection. This is not a transit of lightness and gaiety; instead it produces an almost monastic consciousness that contemplates the world with detachment.

You have learned much in the last several years, and now you will be able to put into practice what you have learned.

* **Jupiter Square Venus**

Beginning of December 2002 until mid July 2003: This transit can create within you genuine warmth of feeling and the desire to give and express love to others. Unfortunately it can also make you feel very unenterprising and passive, so that you wait for things to come to you when you ought to go out after them. It is very hard to tell which of these two broad classes of response to expect, but generally speaking, the first is more common.

On occasions this transit may mean that you will attract someone with whom you could have a significant relationship, but it may not be an easy relationship. It is likely to be quite constructive, however, and whether or not you realize it immediately, you will gain from it in wisdom and maturity.

The principal difficulty with this transit is that it inspires rather compulsive feelings, which do not leave you enough room to maneuver and handle the new relationship properly. Because you act com-
pulsively, your feelings may overwhelm the other person. And it is very important to realize that in all Venus-Jupiter combinations there is tension between the closeness of Venus and the love of freedom of Jupiter. It is quite possible to combine these into a very creative relationship that will be pleasant and constructive for both of you, but you will have to calm yourself down a bit and proceed with less excitement. If you can do this easily, this transit should be very good for you.

This transit stimulates your love of beauty. Make every effort to surround yourself with beauty, such as pleasant surroundings, art objects or beautiful scenery. With some people, this feeling becomes perverted into a love of gaudy, showy things that have no real worth. To each his or her own, of course, but do not get seduced into wasting money on some trifle that you will regret in soberer moments.

Pluto Sextile Mercury

A transit approaching its end, from mid of December 2001, remaining until end of August 2003: This transit is a good time for deep intellectual probing of ideas and beliefs. If you want to or must find out about something, this is an excellent time for it. Your mental powers are sharp and your perception is keen. Also you are in the right frame of mind for working with extreme thoroughness. You are not satisfied with superficial answers and will not be happy until you understand the whole truth.

This is also an excellent time to probe your own mind and see what makes it work. Your desire to explore the secret depths of everything applies even to your own self, so this is a very good time for self-inquiry. Communications with others take on a heavier tone now. You value significant communication and are uninterested in superficial banter. Your everyday intercourse with the world around you becomes the vehicle for important discoveries that will eventually change your whole way of thinking. You will have a spirit of discovery rather than a feeling that everything is caving in around you, as often happens when you encounter ideas that seem to invalidate your former beliefs. Your burning desire to get at the truth makes every discovery interesting instead of alarming. And as your depth of mind increases, so will your ability to influence other people. What you say will have greater weight with others. People will believe you because they know you have checked the facts thoroughly and speak with great conviction.

Ideas, concepts and philosophies that are inherently mysterious or that explain the world from an occult point of view are more attractive to you now. This is an excellent time to study occult philosophy, metaphysics or even psychology or psychiatry. Any discipline related to healing he mind will be beneficial at this time.

* Jupiter in the Second House

October 2002 until September 2003: This transit has traditionally been associated with making money or gaining wealth, and there is something to that, for you will attempt to grow in the sphere of material possessions and resources now. But in a larger sense, what you are doing at this time is actualizing in your life whatever it is that you value. If it is money or physical possessions that you value, that is the area you will try to increase in and through. Or if your values are more spiritual - involving ideas, a standard of justice, or whatever - you will attempt to increase this dimension of your life.

Obviously then it is very important at this time to understand how you use resources, because the chances are that you will indeed get more of whatever you want, within reason. Unfortunately there
is great potential for mismanaging resources with this transit, if you are not clear about what you need and want. It is very easy to get so much of something that it runs your life instead of making your life more pleasant and fulfilling. This is particularly true of efforts to gain more money.

What you must do at this time in your life is to look at your overall goals honestly and see what you really must have in order to achieve them. It will be relatively easy to make the necessary changes in your resources to help attain your goals, so plan these changes wisely.

This is not a call for total asceticism. If you want to buy something that is very expensive, perhaps a bit self-indulgent, there is no reason why you should not go after it. Just make sure that you really want it, that it is not merely a symbol of something you think you want. Many people acquire possessions simply because they think they are expected to in order to show social status. To acquire for reasons of this sort would truly be a waste. Nevertheless, during this time material resources can be a great comfort, and you can derive a real and honest pleasure from them.

In a larger sense you will learn more about yourself at this time through encountering possessions and having to handle them. Managing the material world will be a great value in promoting self-understanding. For this reason, this is a good period in your life to invest money with a little self-restraint or to buy possessions either for enjoyment or for investment.

Neptune Trine Mars

Beginning of May 2001 until end of October 2003: This is not a good time to strike out boldly into the world to further your own interests. However, this transit does provide the opportunity to learn certain very valuable lessons without the discouraging defeats that most Mars-Neptune transits engender.

During this time you will not feel inclined to assert yourself at other people’s expense. Instead you may wish to work to help others without any concern for your own advancement. This is a good time for any kind of charitable work or for working with poor or otherwise disadvantaged people. Similarly you may become involved with others in an organization concerned with mystical or spiritual teaching. Whatever your area of work, the main consideration is that you work for knowledge and insight and to help others, not for your own advancement.

Do not be afraid that your life will lack fulfillment. You will find that ultimately all your activities for and with others for a common purpose will be fulfilling. We often have an idea that our own interests are somehow not consistent with those of others. But at this time you will discover that your needs and desires are identical with other people’s. In order to learn this, you must get away from working solely for yourself. This transit will help you do that.

Related to the above effect is a greater concern with metaphysical and spiritual truth. You will become increasingly able to understand how you as an individual fit into the entire universe. Your idea of who you are and what your individuality consists of will expand greatly.

Uranus Opposition Pluto

Mid March 2002 until beginning of November 2003: The wisdom gained through the experience of your life will serve you in good stead now, as long as you are willing to be flexible. You may discover that events and deeds from your distant
past are now beginning to produce consequences that may revolutionize your life. You certainly can’t expect everything to go on as it has in the past. Now is the time to make sweeping changes, not only in your consciousness, but also in the circumstances in which you live. Conditions that have been developing slowly will force major changes upon you now. If you are flexible, you will be able to start a whole new phase of life, even though you may have thought that the time for new starts in your life is past. You will have a new birth of awareness, and you will be able to deal with your life unhampered by old patterns of thought that have limited you.

But if you cannot adapt and be flexible, this will be a period of great turmoil and stress as you try desperately to hold on to circumstances, possessions and relationships that no longer have any real function in your life. What you are trying to save is not something real, it is only an illusion.

The impetus for change may come through persons who present you with many upsetting surprises, all of which show that your life is no longer what is was. The key point to recognize is that this process is not bad for you, it is just upsetting at first until you get into the flow of events. It can be quite exciting and will certainly inject an element of youth into your life again, with the advantage that now you will have the wisdom to handle it properly.

**Uranus Opposition Jupiter**

Beginning of March 2002 until beginning of November 2003: During this transit you should watch the affairs of your life very carefully. Situations will arise suddenly that can be extremely productive and beneficial if you recognize them in advance or extremely difficult if you do not. Events happen so fast that you will not have the usual time to figure them out before you act. If you act too quickly, you may find yourself out on a very unpleasant limb, but if you don’t act quickly enough, the chance is lost. Consequently this transit can produce both sudden losses and sudden gains. As a general rule, however, you would be well advised to be cautious. The opportunities you miss by acting slowly may not be worth the risk. This is a gambler’s transit, and many people respond to it by taking very long-shot risks. It makes you want to gamble, but it does not make you especially lucky.

In your relationships the theme of freedom will be emphasized. You may become restless and want to be free of an excessively restrictive relationship. You are inclined at this time to break away from secure situations and leap out into the unknown simply for the sake of the challenge. However, it may be that someone else will struggle to break free from your influence. Someone who has been with you a long time and has seemingly been satisfied may suddenly want out. But this is not likely to happen unless you both have been feeling a strain in your relationship, although you may not have chosen to recognize it until now.

If you have been putting up with a tense and strained situation but not getting any benefit from it, you will break free of the tension now and probably experience an enormous sense of release. Even if you don’t want to let go of the situation, you will probably be happier once it has gone.

**Uranus Trine Neptune**

Beginning of March 2002 until beginning of November 2003: This transit will bring idealistic, spiritual and philosophical issues to the fore in your life. You will become concerned with the meaning of the world, and you will find new ways of investigating it.
If you are at all interested in mystical and spiritual ideas, you will be more involved in these studies than ever, and it will be very profitable. You will take up ideas that you had considered too abstract to be of any use, and you will see clearly how you can apply them in your life. This is an excellent time for the study of any metaphysical, occult or spiritual doctrine.

Even if you have never been concerned with these subjects, you will suddenly be interested in aspects of life that you may have considered too idealistic. You may work very hard with others to actualize your beliefs about how the world ought to be. Under this transit you are not likely to sit back and let the world go along as it has. But at the same time you are not doctrinaire; you have great compassion for different points of view and are willing to try to reach an understanding when disagreements arise with others.

You may take a new interest in working with the poor, the sick and the downtrodden to improve their lot in life. You find it difficult to allow suffering in the world about you, even if you have been relatively unconcerned about this in the past.

In general this transit makes you feel that you have experienced some new aspect of truth and that the universe is much more complex and varied than you had previously thought. You want to share these realizations with everyone who comes into your life.

* Saturn in the Twelfth House

July 2002 until November 2004: At this time the decks are cleared for new action. Now you should be finishing up anything that was not done completely during the last several years. This is not a good time for starting new projects, for the energy just isn’t there even if you think that you want to start anew.

Even if you don’t want to take some project through this final finishing-up phase, circumstances will compel you to. Important elements of your life may begin to pass away, and activities that used to work well no longer do. Your ways of handling people and situations no longer achieve the desired response. You get the impression that in order to succeed you will have to change everything, yet you don’t know how to make the changes. People tend to "withdraw" into themselves during this time so that they can get more in tune with what is happening. It is very important that you use this time to understand what you have accomplished and what you have failed to accomplish. Do not judge or evaluate; simply observe and recognize.

If your life has not succeeded according to your expectations during the last several years when Saturn transited your natal tenth and eleventh houses, now you have an opportunity to clear away the barriers that prevented you from achieving what you wanted. But this effort will not bear fruit immediately. This is the end of a cycle, not yet the beginning of a new one.

It is tempting to fall into despair over the "failures" that seem to haunt you now. During this time you are more likely to feel guilty and to brood about your inadequacies. But these feelings are neither productive nor therapeutic. Recognize that this is the time to clear away leftovers from the past and to make ready for a new start. You will feel pressures for tremendous changes both in the direction of your life and in the manner of proceeding in that direction. Heed these pressures, for they are the first signs of the new order that is about to begin in your life. You will go through a new cycle of defining your individuality within yourself and with respect to others and of experiencing its effec-
tiveness before the world. Cut your losses, if any, and look forward rather than backward.

* Saturn Square Midheaven

End of June 2003 until beginning of March 2004: This is a challenging time in your life. You will have to make many choices about what areas of your life to emphasize. Will you work to build up a new career or continue to build upon a current one? Will you work to make your personal life as satisfying as possible? Will you work collectively with many other people or by yourself?

Often there is an "alienation crisis" with this transit, a sudden feeling of being cut off from everyone else, as if you have spent too much energy pursuing purely personal goals. This in turn generates loneliness and a feeling of being distant from others, even loved ones. Or you may suddenly feel that you no longer have the strength to go on in the direction you have chosen. Fears of your own inadequacies may distort your perspective. All of this is most likely to happen if you have neglected personal relationships in your life. You cannot go on forever without supportive emotional relationships, and you may have been trying to do so.

Sometimes this transit can have the opposite result, and you discover that various personal entanglements have been interfering with the pursuit of your valid goals. In this case you will break off relationships and gain the freedom to go your own way. The issue here is the balance between personal relationships and advancement in life.

On another tack, this transit can test your choice of goals. You may encounter opposition from others that forces you to examine whether your goals are really valid for you. If they are, the conflict with other persons or against trying circumstances will be useful. But if you find that your heart is not really in the path you have chosen, you may have to make adjustments and change your course of action. It is far better to do this now than several years from now, when you may be over-committed to an inappropriate course and discover that you are trapped. Now is the time to change. It may not be pleasant, but it is possible.

Saturn Trine Sun

End of June 2003 until beginning of March 2004: At this time the circumstances of your life and your own inner energies are working quite well together. But this transit will not seem especially lucky; rather, your life as a whole will run smoothly, and whatever you do will come out well. Without any special sense of effort, you are actually able to make significant progress and get a great deal done. Take advantage of this and accomplish as much as possible. If an opportunity arises for further training to expand the range of your experience, take it, because you will build up a bulwark against possible adversity later on. The more you accomplish at this time, the easier it will be to live up to demands that will be made upon you a few years from now.

This is a time of preparation for the climaxes that come at the opposition and conjunction transits. Therefore you should use this period to make your world strong and secure against difficulties. Saturn, even with the trine aspect, always demands that you live up to obligations and responsibilities and very seldom gives you something for nothing, as the other planets often do.

This is also a good time for building up your physical strength rather than wasting it. If you waste your energy now, it won’t mean immediate trouble, but in a few years, when you need strength and energy, you may not have it.
This is a good time to win recognition from others for your achievements. Employers or others with whom you work will be impressed with your diligence. And you should strive to impress them, because in a few years your goals will be challenged, but if you have convinced others that you are worthwhile, you will overcome those obstacles more easily.

**Jupiter Square Saturn**

* Jupiter Conjunct Pluto

4 July 2003 until 26 July 2003: Under this transit you will make many adjustments in your life, separating yourself from persons or circumstances that are doing you no good. You will change many standards of behavior and morality that you realize are inappropriate and generally realign your conception of duty and responsibility more in accordance with reality. In the process you may experience a considerable amount of tension, and for a time you may be confused, not quite knowing whether to go backward or forward, to expand or cut back.

Probably you would be well advised to go off by yourself for a while, because other people’s advice will be of little value, unless you select your advisors with great care. The challenge here is to increase and go forward in some areas but to cut back in others. You will not be able to keep everything going, no matter how much you want to. Unfortunately there is no way of telling in advance which areas of your life will be affected.

Under this transit there is often a strong feeling of restlessness and uncertainty. You know clearly that something is wrong, but you are not sure what it is. The best way to deal with this is not to be in a hurry. Usually you will have all the time you need to make a decision based on careful observation of the facts, so don’t rush.

In business and professional matters, this is a critical time, but not necessarily a bad one. It simply means that whatever you do now will have a more important effect than usual on the future. Therefore you should be patient while you find the right solution to any problem in this area also. Be especially careful with your finances, because you will have a strong tendency to resent the limitations that they impose on your freedom of movement, and you may act impulsively, as if there were no real limitations at all.

It is possible that you will change jobs under this transit, because a new offer gives you more opportunities to get ahead than your old job. In that case, take it, because such changes are often beneficial with this influence. In general you should take any opportunity that comes along now to broaden your scope and release yourself from limitations that have held you back. The trick is to do this in a way that is not destructively disruptive.

5 August 2003 until 26 August 2003: This transit brings the urge to achieve to the forefront of your life. You will make great, even extraordinary, efforts to gain success as you personally define it. You work harder and strive to gain your objective with every ounce of energy at your disposal. Consequently, this transit often occurs just at the moment when some tremendous effort in your life bears fruit.

Sometimes there is a tremendous drive to gain power, and this transit can bring you power even when you are not trying especially hard to get it. Remember that each person has opportunities for a different kind of power. It may be great or relatively humble in terms of the larger society, but it will be meaningful to you.
This power drive is sufficiently strong that it is difficult to deny, even if it has absolutely no outlet. In that case you are likely to get into some kind of conflict with authorities, even to the extent of arrest. If your ambition becomes the irresistible force against an immovable society, you will probably be the loser. Therefore you must scan your life to find areas where you can let the energy of this transit manifest itself. Surely in some area of your life you can better yourself and achieve something that would bring you recognition and respect. This is true no matter how depressed you think you are or how downtrodden your circumstances. If you put all your energy into working on that, it is quite likely that you will accomplish what you want.

The dominant drive of this transit is self-betterment, but each individual has to define that term for himself or herself. You can work in that direction now, and how well you succeed depends largely on what you mean by betterment. Unfortunately, for some people it means simply money or power. If you are one of them, throughout this transit you will act as if obsessed, and indeed, power can become a fanatical preoccupation. Other people may become obsessed by an idea, usually concerning righteousness or morality. This also carries the danger that you will lose track of all normal human values and try to live with a distorted set of standards or concerns.

This transit clearly has a double potential. Either you can create something great in your life with it, or you can distort your life. It all depends on what you are as a human being now.

* Jupiter in the Third House

September 2003 until October 2004: The effect of this transit is to increase your contacts through and within your immediate surroundings. You will not have to go very far from your everyday world to find experiences that expand your perception of the world and increase your level of consciousness. This may manifest itself in several ways.

First of all, it is quite likely that through your everyday life you will receive an opportunity for advanced training in a field of study that could be useful to you. Your concern with communication will increase, and you may do some writing, even if that is not one of your usual activities. During this period, extended travel may be necessary for some reason, but you will come out of it understanding a lot more about your world.

Your relationships with relatives - brothers, sisters, cousins etc. - will be very good. It is quite possible that you may receive some kind of financial benefit from one of them, but that is not the only way they could benefit you.

Perhaps more important in the long run is the possible effect of this transit upon your mind and consciousness. Old thought patterns, attitudes that you have adopted more or less unconsciously or that you don’t think very much about consciously, will be broadened and expanded. Your thinking will be less subject to the limitations imposed by these attitudes. Consequently your attitude toward the world around you will be much more generous, understanding and tolerant of other people’s differences. You are less likely to be influenced by prejudices. Instead, you want to know everything on the basis of your own experience.

Your plans for the future will be larger and more expansive. You will realize that many of the limitations that you thought were imposed from without are actually self-imposed. Also, in looking at the world, you take more factors into consideration and plan more effectively than you might at other times. Just be careful not to go to the opposite extreme.
and overdo it. Don’t commit yourself to projects that you cannot possibly fulfill.

As a general rule, communication with others is better than usual now. You are able to say what is on your mind, and you are less subject to failures of communication. At the same time you are frank and willing to talk about every aspect of a given problem, whether it relates to your emotional life or to some situation in the outer world.

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IV. SELECT TRANSITS OF THE SWIFT MOVING PLANETS

The following presents you with a choice of the transits of the swift moving planets, again in chronological order. The transits of the Sun, Mercury, Venus and Mars are very numerous. However, they are only significant if there is a topical or chronological connection with important transits of the slow moving planets. All transits of the swift moving planets that you will find hereafter fulfill that condition.

After most transits there is a note in small print that refers you to the according transits of slow moving planets. The transits of the swift moving planets often trigger off a related transit of a slow moving one. During the days of a current transit of a swift moving planet, the issues of a related transit of a slow moving planet can become especially important, even if that transit lasts for months or even years.

This chapter is also not meant to be read all at once. Please choose a certain time span and read about the according issues either by looking them up in the index (page three) or by using the graphical table (page two).

Mercury in the Seventh House

End of December 2002 until end of February 2003: This is a good time to clarify and explain an issue to someone with whom you are intimately associated in daily life, such as your spouse or business partner. It is also good for consulting a specialist on any matter that concerns you. You should not think and plan alone or unassisted today. You need another person’s consciousness and response to your ideas and statements in order to get a clear perspective on your thoughts. Also, finding out your partner’s thoughts will help her to clarify them. Together you will be able to accomplish much more than either of you could separately.

It is also a good time to discuss any difficulties that have come up in your intimate relationships. You are capable of taking a much more detached view than usual, and you can reach conclusions objectively, which might be difficult at other times. Your communication concerning such matters is also unusually clear. In all your encounters today, you will seek intellectual stimulation and conversation, ranging from cheerful banter to spirited debate.

This transit is rather unfavorable for making contracts or entering into negotiations about any matter, and therefore it would be wise to avoid all types of negotiations.

Mercury in the Eleventh House

Mid April 2003 until end of June 2003: Mercury in this transit inclines you to think about your goals and expectations in life. You will examine your ideals to find out exactly how well they have served you and to what extent you have attained
them. You should also think about whether your goals are really your own or whether they are in part other people’s goals that you have adopted for yourself. In the latter case, decide whether these goals are appropriate for you.

This is the house of group ideals and standards and also the house of your position in groups generally. You should examine your attitudes toward these groups. At this time you need and will have more verbal and intellectual exchanges with friends and with other groups that you are associated with.

Talking over your problems with friends will be especially helpful in reaching an objective viewpoint. But keep in mind that talking things over with friends cannot free you from prejudices and preconceptions that are held by the entire group.

**Sun in the Twelfth House**

Mid June 2003 until mid July 2003: At this time you have to get in touch with your own subconscious mind, to find out how it directs your life in ways that you aren’t aware of. Try to see how your actions may run counter to your conscious intentions. We all broadcast two kinds of signals to the outer world. One kind is what we think we are trying to do. The other kind, which are unconscious signals, tell people what we are really trying to do. If these two sets of signals do not coincide, it is not because you are intentionally trying to deceive, but you may confuse people or even worse, cause them to lose faith in what you are trying to do.

In a way, your year is ending, the year established by the transit of the Sun through your natal houses. This is a good time to look back over the year and see how well you have managed the art of living. It may be necessary to be alone now so that you can reflect in peace and quiet. But there is one danger. You must be prepared to evaluate with complete honesty all your behavior and ways of dealing with the world. Anything you refuse to face will continue to be a part of your unconscious mind and will work against you when you least expect it. This is not a time to be wrapped up in your ego. You must be prepared to acknowledge your faults and your virtues without fear or self-recrimination. And you must be able to do this with regard to others as well.

**Mars in the Ninth House**

July 2003 until December 2003: This transit can be a time when you do more creative intellectual work than usual and attempt to convey your experience and view of the world to others. The beliefs and ideas that you consider true and important you will assert and defend wherever necessary. Obviously this is valuable if you have to influence other people and make an impression on them, but it can also be a danger if you try to beat people over the head with your opinions and ideas. The problem is to avoid identifying your ego with what you believe. When you identify your ego with your ideas, you really believe you are that idea, and you will defend it as if it were literally your own body. Even the physiological reactions are the same.

What you can do now is put all of your energy into expanding your mind. Look for experiences that will open up new dimensions of reality instead of wasting your energy on defending your ideas.

**Venus Conunct Jupiter**

On 20 August 2003: This is probably the most agreeable transit of all in its effect upon your mood and in the way it makes your life work. The only drawback is that the effects last only one day. This transit is extremely good for all types of relationships, whether professional, personal, social or intimate. You feel optimistic, eager and outgoing,
warm and friendly to everyone you meet, and you have no desire to engage in disputes.

This transit is also lucky financially. You may have a sudden windfall, although this is not the usual manifestation. You are inclined to indulge yourself and to spend money, especially on lavish or beautiful objects. In many respects, self-discipline is at an all-time low at this time, but it usually is not needed. Celebrations held at this time are unusually successful, for you at least, as is any kind of entertaining or social occasion. This will be due partly to your infectious good mood. People will like to be with you.

This is a good time for love relationships. The same warm feelings will have a good effect on these relationships, and sometimes a totally new relationship will begin under this transit. Certainly this is an excellent transit for a wedding.

This transit is related to Jupiter conjunction Jupiter on p. 5 and can function as a trigger for it.

**Sun Conjunct Jupiter**

On 21 August 2003: The symbolism of this transit suggests that, consciously or unconsciously, you want to include as much in your life as possible today. You desire experience and activity. It will not be enough to stay in exactly the same place you have been. But instead of making you dissatisfied, as might be expected, this desire makes you go after what you want, with complete optimism that you will get it.

On the intellectual level, this transit can signify study or other mind-expanding inquiry. You have a strong desire to understand and know, even about ideas that you normally consider to be beyond your understanding.

On the physical level, you want to have all kinds of new experiences. The thrust of these energies is to broaden your life and enlarge the experience of living.

But just as there are two sides to the Jupiter energy, this transit also has a potential negative side. It can be large-hearted, magnanimous and generous, but it can also be arrogant and domineering, depending on your subconscious orientation to others. If you believe subconsciously that your own personal growth takes place at others’ expense, then you will exhibit the negative side of this energy. If you believe that your personal growth comes about through the inclusion of others into your life, you will exhibit the positive side.

The drive to include and incorporate, which is inherent in Jupiter, may lead you to act in excess. That is, you may take on projects that are beyond your ability to handle. It is very important today that you act with a firm sense of discipline and not simply indulge every compulsive whim that comes along. Take on the projects that you can handle plus a little extra, but not very much extra. Handle your resources intelligently and be careful not to invest unwisely because of foolish optimism.

This transit is related to Jupiter conjunction Jupiter on p. 5 and can function as a trigger for it.

**Venus Conjunct Pluto**

On 21 August 2003: This transit makes you seek unusual and intense love experiences. You hope to find escape from everyday life through love, but this can create problems if you are not careful. You may create a disturbance in a normal, happy relationship because you are not willing to accept things as they are. Another troublesome effect of this transit is that you may feel insecure about your loved one and suddenly become exces-
sively jealous or possessive. This is a passing effect, since Venus transits quickly, but it can create misunderstandings. However, if your loved one is able to respond to your mood, this can be an extremely rewarding time because of the greatly intensified level of feelings between you.

Under this transit, you may be completely fascinated and infatuated with a new lover, but be careful. You may be under the influence of powerful subconscious drives triggered by the encounter that have nothing to do with the real potential of the relationship.

In an existing relationship, do not use love to manipulate your partner. There is a strong tendency to use jealousy, guilt or other negative emotions to control your partner’s actions. This can lead only to negative reactions that may eventually weaken the relationship.

This transit is related to Jupiter conjunction Pluto on p. 15 and can function as a trigger for it.

**Sun Conjunct Sun**

On 28 October 2003: Happy birthday! Today the Sun returns to the position it was in when you were born.

As would seem appropriate with this transit, today is a day of new beginnings. A new year in your own personal calendar has begun, and the influences you feel today will affect the entire year to come. However, this does not mean that the whole year will be disappointing if today doesn’t work out exactly as planned.

You are receiving a new impulse from the energy center within you, as symbolized by the Sun. Therefore any new venture that you start at this time will ride the crest of this new energy and will very likely come to an acceptable conclusion. Whatever you do or begin today will bear the stamp of your individuality more than anything else. This is the day to assert yourself anew.

**Mercury Square Moon**

Beginning of December 2003 until end of January 2004, especially on 9 December 2003, 24 December 2003 and 22 January 2004: You should use this day to find out exactly how you feel about every matter that comes up. It will not all be pleasant, but it should not be totally unpleasant either. Your thinking will be unusually influenced by your feelings, and your communication with others may be so colored by unconscious compulsions that you will have difficulties. Examine the attitudes you have inherited from your parents and continually ask yourself, "Have I experienced the truth of this point of view directly, or is it a dogma I was taught to believe in childhood?" It is impossible to root out every belief that makes up one’s prejudices, but you should make a start, and this is a good time to do so.

Because women are so often the targets of one’s unconscious projections (no matter whether you are male or female), this transit is often associated with arguments with women. However, anyone who activates an unconscious belief or thought pattern will be a source of difficulty for you at this time.

Learn about your unconscious mind and emotions, so that you no longer hold others responsible for the problems you have had in life. This transit gives you the opportunity to understand how you have contributed to your difficulties and to do something about them.

This transit is related to Saturn square Moon on p. 6 and can function as a trigger for it.
Mercury Square Mars

Beginning of December 2003 until end of January 2004, especially on 12 December 2003, 22 December 2003 and 23 January 2004: This transit can be quite difficult. You are inclined to feel touchy and irritable and to regard almost any communication from another person as a challenge. And you will make this attitude so clear to people that they may even tread lightly around you for fear of setting you off. Anyone who crosses you will be told off in no uncertain terms.

The worst way to handle this influence, but what you are most likely to do, is to identify your own ego with what you believe or think. This will make you act as if your very life were threatened, which of course it is not. If you have to fight for your beliefs, this transit can be a help, but don’t look for a battle or create an issue where none exists.

As with most transits, you may experience this one in projected form; that is, you may have to contend with another person who is acting touchy or defensive. Be careful that you have not been unconsciously sending out subtle signals that draw such persons to you.

This transit can indicate accident-prone behavior. If you are not careful, there is a real danger of accidents through burns, especially to the arms and legs, or while walking or driving. But these will probably not occur without warning. Most frequently, you will have a feeling of repressed rage, as if some kind of energy inside you is struggling to break free. If you find that you are acting impulsively for no reason at all, try to avoid driving and other forms of travel in which you are in control. Also be very careful with host objects or anything sharp. Accidents under this transit are not caused by "bad luck" but by repressed hostility and aggressiveness. Lacking an external expression, they turn inward against you.

This transit is related to Saturn square Mars on p. 6 and can function as a trigger for it.

Sun Square Mars

On 1 January 2004: Your energy level will be high, perhaps too high if you are not careful. Watch for signs of irritable impatience with others whenever things do not go exactly as you planned. Be assertive only when the situation calls for it, not whenever you feel like it. All so watch out for baseless conflicts with others, which you may not necessarily instigate yourself. The effects of any transit may be projected, that is, they may seem to originate with someone else. In this case you may not feel at all belligerent, but nevertheless you are attracting belligerence from others.

Today you should be particularly careful of conflicts with authorities. Voice your complaints if they are legitimate, but expect a certain amount of hostile reaction to them. Also be careful that the tone of your complaint does not aggravate this hostility. What you get is usually a function of the energies that you put out.

On the physical level, try to find an outlet for your vigorous energies. Do something that requires a lot of hard work and gives your aggressions a satisfactory outlet. Frustrated personal energies can lead to illness or accidents if the energy turns inward. In fact if you feel no aggressive energies at all under this transit, you ought to be concerned, because you have probably sublimated the energy and may experience it through illness or accident. If used consciously and intentionally, this energy is positive and can help you accomplish considerable work and establish yourself in any position you want.
This transit is related to Saturn square Mars on p. 6 and can function as a trigger for it.

Mars Opposition Mars

On 2 January 2004: During this transit you have a very strong need to assert yourself, but you may do it in a way that provokes conflict with others. And if you try to suppress this need for ego-expression, you may have to contend with someone else’s attempts to be overbearing. On the other hand, this could possibly be a time of very vigorous and successful work, in which you succeed by asserting your own individuality toward others in some way. The lesson that you must learn is that your own success does not have to be at someone else’s expense. But under this transit you may feel that it does, and so you respond either by trying to dominate others unnecessarily or by reacting negatively to anyone else’s success. You may feel that their success was stolen from you, but that is not necessarily true. Work for your own interests, but not against someone else’s.

Even under the best circumstances you may encounter serious opposition from others. The best way to deal with this is to get the encounter out in the open and get it over with. Otherwise you will have to deal with your own or the other person’s sullen irritability. If you feel a vague undefined anger at the world in general during this transit, it is because you have tried to ignore the anger or hurt within yourself. Now it is bubbling up in a form so disguised that you cannot readily diagnose its source.

But your energy level in general is very high now. If you can work with others without getting entirely wrapped up in your own ego, you can accomplish a great deal of work and bring many affairs to a successful conclusion.

This transit is related to Saturn square Mars on p. 6 and can function as a trigger for it.

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APPENDIX

Legend for the graphical table

In the graphical table on page two, each transit is represented by a horizontal bar. The name of the transit appears underneath each bar, along with the page number where you will find the corresponding text.

Important transits are depicted as heavy bars - whether transits are classified as important depends mainly on the constellations of your personal natal chart. If you look at the calendar scale on the upper or lower edge of the table, it will show you exactly when and for how long a certain transit is in effect; the duration of each transit is also given in words at the beginning of the corresponding paragraph in the text. The small marks on the bars indicate when a transit becomes exact, i.e. the exact time that a transiting planet crosses the relevant point in your natal chart. If you bring a ruler vertically to these marks, you can read the exact date from the calendar scale.

Please bear in mind that the duration of transits can in no way be given exactly. Especially with long-term transits, the importance of a certain issue can become noticeable a long time beforehand. Transits relating to the ascendant, midheaven or houses depend strongly on the exactness of the time of birth. If your time of birth is uncertain by more than fifteen minutes, you ought to skip the corresponding paragraphs.

For the technically minded: In determining the start of a transit, we use the entry of any planet into an orb of 1° to
3°, depending on the planet and aspect in question; the transit ends at the exit from an orb of 1° to 1°30', again depending on the planet and aspect. Multiple exact transits are considered to be in effect for the whole period between the first entry and last exit. The index on page three refers to all transits only under those months in which they become exact, even if their duration extends over several months.

**The texts and the computer program**

The text of "Transits of the Year" was written by Robert Hand, one of the world's most famous and renowned astrological authors. Rob Hand lives on Cape Cod in the USA; he is especially concerned with the philosophical and historical dimensions of astrology. Originally the text was written to be used in a computer report published by Para Research Inc, later renamed to Astral Research Inc. A slightly extended version of the text has been published in the book "Planets in Transit". For use in "Transits of the Year", the original text was slightly shortened and edited. The introductory and intermittent paragraphs in italics originate from the Astrodienst team.

The computer program for "Transits of the Year" was created by Alois Treindl, director of Astrodienst Zürich. It is written in Prolog and C and uses concepts of expert systems and artificial intelligence to choose and evaluate the transits to the individual birth chart.

"Transits of the Year" does not deal with all the transits occurring during a year; rather, the most important ones - depending on the respective natal chart - are chosen and interpreted. Also, interpretation of certain transits may vary according to the age of the person in question and the presence or absence of certain factors in the natal chart; interpretation may also depend on other transits in operation at the time.

**Further reading**

The "Personal Horoscope Calendar" offers you interpretations for each day of any given year, again using individual transits and the text material written by Robert Hand. In contrast to the "Transits of the Year", all transits of the swift moving planets and the transits of Chiron are considered. An included complete ephemeris of the respective period may be especially interesting for astrologers. A sample copy for one month is also available. (These new reports may not yet be available at all distributors in countries other than Switzerland).

In order to arrive at your own transit interpretation, you may find the following books helpful:

"Planets in Transit", by Robert Hand. This book provided the text basis for "Transits of the Year" and lends itself especially well to studying on your own.

"Transits, The Time Of Your Life", by Betty Lundsted. This book discusses only the transits of the slow moving planets and of Mars.