

THE PROGRESSED SUN AND THE SIGNS OF THE ZODIAC

**If you lay bound upon the wheel of change,
And there was no way of breaking free from the chain,
The Heart of the boundless Being would then be a curse,
And the Soul of all Things would be nothing but Pain.**

**You are not bound! The Soul of all Things is sweet,
The Heart of all Being is celestial rest:
Stronger than woe is will: that which was Good
Will eventually pass from Better to Best.**

--An ancient poem

Although your horoscope of birth will never change in terms of the natal positions of the planets, signs, and houses, there are many astrological cycles that are ever in motion and are therefore always affecting your chart. In order for the astrologer to have a clear understanding of where a person stands in her life both in terms of the present and the future, the astrologer has to be totally familiar with the nature of these cycles, their patterns and effects. This facet of astrological work takes a great deal of time and practice to come to know. Astrological forecasting and the timing of events (so-called “electional” astrology) are delicate arts and not easily mastered. In this article, I would like to make the reader more familiar with a number of these major planetary cycles and by so doing, bring more light on how astrology really works—and more specifically, how it works in your horoscope.

Of all planetary positions, the placement of the progressed Sun is probably the easiest one to determine. You don't even need a computer—a pen and paper will do (along with a copy of your natal horoscope, of course). But before we calculate the progressed Sun and determine some of its indications in your life, we should define the nature and significance of this position. The Sun in the natal horoscope is the center of vitality. It can truly be called the “Heart of the Horoscope”. It is like the king in a game of chess—it does not move very much (the Sun is after all, a fixed star) but although all the other chess pieces are expendable, there is no game without the king. The same is true of the natal chart—without the Sun; there is no horoscope. This is why so much emphasis is placed upon the nature of the Sun Sign. Let us list four of the primary qualities and meanings of the Sun in the natal map:

Health and vitality: a strong Sun will indicate a strong heart and thus the ability to pump the “fluid of life”—the blood—through the physical body.

Creative urge: the Sun says much to the astrologer about a person’s creative drives and how these impulses will most likely express themselves in the individual’s life.

Sense of identity: the Sun is closely related to the energy that is the life force of the “ego”, the sense of “I am”. A weak Sun in the chart will not make it easy for a person to assert him or herself with an unmistakable sense of personal signature.

Stimulation: the Sun vitalizes and awakens any other planet that it contacts in the natal chart either through its placement at birth or through its “directions” relative to the natal chart, i.e. its transits and progressions.

The “progressed” Sun does just that—it progresses the position of the Sun in the natal chart, taking these four major life qualities and functions along with it. What makes the position of the progressed Sun so easy to find is that the Sun has a basic rate of daily motion that is relatively constant. This diurnal motion averages about 58’ of arc or very slightly under a degree a day. Thus by the end of 365 days, the Sun has made one complete revolution through the 360° zodiac. When an astrologer seeks to locate the progressed Sun relative to a person’s age, it is customary to take one day of planetary motion for each year of life. This is technically known as “secondary progressions.” Thus, if you were born with the Sun at 14° of Taurus (a degree usually falling on May 4th of each year) and you wanted to know the position of your progressed Sun for your 35th birthday, all you would have to do is to add 35° to the position of your natal Sun. This would give you about 19° Gemini as the position of your progressed Sun.

Now take a look at your natal chart. Note the natal house position of your Sun. Let us say that the natal Sun at 14° Taurus is in your Third House of your horoscope. Let us also assume that 1° Gemini is on the cusp of your Fourth House. Thus the position of your progressed Sun at 19° Gemini is now in your Fourth House. This position of the progressed Sun is of major

importance to know. As the Sun moves so slowly—a degree per progressed year—it will occupy and activate a house for decades! The actual number of years it stimulates the activities of that house will of course depend on the number of degrees of the natal house in question. If you were born on or near the equator, then the Sun would tend to take 30 years to progress through each of your houses. Count the degrees in the house where the Sun is progressing in your chart and you will know how many years it has been there and how many years it will remain in that placement.

In the case of the example cited above, the progressed Sun moved into your Fourth House at the age of 17 (17 years/degrees added to 14° Taurus gives 1° Gemini). If for example, 28° of Gemini is on the cusp of the Fifth House, the progressed Sun would leave the Fourth House when you are about 45 years old as you were 17 years old when the Sun entered the Fourth at 1° Gemini. Thus 27 degrees/years later (at 28° Gemini) the progressed Sun will enter the Fifth House and you would find yourself in yet another field of experience.

Almost everyone who follows these simple instructions and locates the position of his or her progressed Sun will find that the Sun has changed signs and houses. What do these solar mutations mean for you? The position of the progressed Sun should be considered as a superimposed photo on an original. The original picture (natal house and sign placement of the Sun) is still quite clear but the second photo is also impressed upon the image you see before you. The fact that your natal Sun was in Virgo and your progressed Sun is now in Scorpio does not mean that now you are no longer a Virgin! It does mean however, that your natal Virgo energy is working through a Scorpio field of experience. Briefly interpreted, this means that your urge for perfection and the accumulation of those tools and techniques which you acquire to bring you closer to that ideal picture (Virgo) will now be undergoing many years of intensive transformations (Scorpio). If you lead your life wisely, such changes will only bring refinement and greater power into your life but old and non-regenerative aspects of yourself will have to be released in the process.

What follows are some indications of what one can expect as the Sun progresses through the signs and house of the natal chart. Please note that the influence of the progressed signs

will always last for 30 years while the time of influence of the progressed Sun upon the houses differs relative to the degrees on the cusps of your natal chart. In most horoscopes of people born in the USA, Canada, New Zealand, Australia, South Africa, and the UK (Dell Horoscope readers are everywhere!), the length of influence on each of the natal house can vary between 17 and 45 years!

When the progressed Sun is in:

Aries: The Ram gives focus and drive to one's creative urges. Look for a period in your life when you seek out new experiences through which to express yourself. You have behind you a great deal of gathered information about human nature, now you need to personalize what you know and make it into who you are. *Keywords: I seek a direct relationship to my creative center.*

Taurus: The Bull brings your life energy into practical manifestation. The drive and creative possibilities you feel within yourself now must take physical form. This is a time of life in which you will work to bring whatever you are subjectively out into the objective world around you. The need to bring tangible, financial rewards into your life will be quite important at this time. *Keywords: I seek form for my creative center.*

Gemini: The Twins give versatility and lead to experimentation. You will seek to take the talents and resources you have established and add variety to your life while exploring your interests. You move into a time in which you see the importance of being more flexible and easy going. Your interest in communication broadens and there is the possibility of opening the doors to writing, speaking and traveling. *Keywords: I seek new experiences for my creative center.*

Cancer: The Crab gives foundation and integration. When the progressed Sun is in Cancer, you are in a time in which you will seek to bring deeper wholeness and meaning to your life. You are building the groundwork for your Self, the base upon which greater growth and creative potential are made possible. Domesticity, psychological insights and personal development are all features of this solar position. *Keywords: I seek a true home for my creative center.*

Leo: The Lion gives expression and expansion to the personality. You have reached a stage in life when it is vital to be “*you*” in no uncertain terms. It will therefore be important during this long period to find your real love in life—your true vocation and to express this creative urge with all the potency within you. For many, this is also a time of personal love, a period in which the search for “the beloved” figures strongly. The more spiritual among us, will find that “the beloved” is the soul. *Keywords: I seek in all I do, my creative center.*

Virgo: The Virgin gives the urge for perfection and self-improvement. In this phase of your life you will learn how to refine your abilities and creative urges. It is a time in which greater opportunities present themselves for the practical expression of your talents and resources. It is a period of “whittling down”, removing excess and coming to the core of yourself. What you find there, after all this hard work, can be the jewel for which you have been searching. *Keywords: I seek the perfect expression of my creative center.*

Libra: The Scales open the door to relationship as well as the need to bring balance between the soul and the personality. The Sun progressing through this sign teaches you how to interact with others through intimate partnerships. It is a time in which you will see yourself mirrored through the eyes of the people with whom you share both your creative and emotional destinies. If you do not like what you see, this is a time to bring greater harmony into your life. Who and how you partner is a reflection of yourself; “the other” is also you. *Keywords: I seek a partner for the shared experience of my creative center.*

Scorpio: The Scorpion brings the opportunity for cleansing and regeneration. This is the sign through which we die to everything in our past that is not good for our eventual wholeness and freedom. As we release ourselves from non-regenerative physical, emotional, and mental habit patterns, we have the opportunity to come into those life experiences that uplift and benefit our evolutionary growth. In this life period of the Scorpio progressed Sun, you may experience a number of transmutative changes that can lead to an enormous amount of personal growth. *Keywords: I seek those transformations that yield the greater light of my creative self.*

Sagittarius: The Centaur carries the arrows of creative impulse whose targets widen our horizons. At this stage of your life, you will seek to broaden your perspectives and expand

upon your potentials. You may easily be lead into higher education and extensive travels. Your spiritual life gets a tremendous boost when the Sun progresses into this sign and for many, the call of the Path becomes loud and clear. *Keywords: I seek the ways that open and widen the pathways of my creative self.*

Capricorn: The Mountain Goat brings structure and concretization of our creative impulses and urges. This is a time in which you seek to establish your position in life either through your career and/or spiritual vocation. You are very aware of the need to assemble the parts and pieces of your talents, resources, and abilities into a whole that evokes success and achievement. The force of your life is directed at reaching the top of whatever you seek to accomplish. *Keywords: I seek the way to the mountaintop for the highest expression of my creative self.*

Aquarius: The Water Bearer carries the urge to be of service to others. This is a time in which you will seek to integrate your various abilities within a larger social collective. You may easily be drawn into group activities and take part in those organizations that have humanitarian and/or technological overtones. A major theme of the Sun when progressing through Aquarius is “dissemination of resources.” This means that you will find that you are inclined to network and share your beliefs and talents with other people of like minds and hearts. *Keywords: I seek to add to the welfare of others as a major expression of my creative self.*

Pisces: The Fish swim deeply in the waters of the collective consciousness. This is a period in your life in which you seek to understand the mysteries of life. The price that is needed to be paid for this information is the reorientation of the personal ego. Thus life is no longer a screen upon which you act as the major star. Life is instead a field of exploration through which the understanding of universal life and the unity of all people become of utmost importance to you. Many people find their true spiritual calling when the Sun reaches this progressed position. *Keywords: I seek the truth behind all the illusions that mask the reality of my creative self.*