

RETROGRADE PLANETS

What They Show About Past Lives By Judy Collins

What does a natal retrograde planet say about our past life? What is its interpretation for the house it occupies? What does it say about the house it rules in our chart? When we first started to study astrology, we were taught or we read a planet retrograde in our chart was “different” in some way rather than one being direct. There are various delineations given to these planets, depending on the teacher or author. Some people feel that the planet works on a more subconscious level than a direct planet. Others give the planet such a maligned interpretation that it makes individuals feel inferior in some way. Retrogrades are probably the most confusing aspects in astrology. In this lesson, we will explore some of those concepts and uncover meanings with regard to past lives. Retrogrades are a wonderful guide to discovering more past life information. It will show us how we are more in tune with the Universe.

What is a retrograde planet? When a planet is on the other side of the Sun away from Earth, the planet is said to be retrograde and moving backward. The backward motion of a planet is only relative to the position of earth. In reality, the planet has not or never will move backward. For that very reason, I believe, a retrograde planet has been miscast in astrology. Individuals who study astrology always talk down about their retrograde planets. They treat them as some “step-child” in their chart. Only through viewing the retrograde planets in a new light, can we work with them in our chart on a different level. This lesson is designed to help you better understand how that can be done.

The sign and house position and aspects of a planet retrograde would add more to the interpretation. But if you just only focus on the planet’s energy, retrograde planets point to the areas of concern. The karma expressed in a retrograde planet is energy we are familiar with from our past life.

Since the Sun and Moon are never retrograde in a chart, the first planet that we will consider is Mercury.

MERCURY — A retrograde Mercury at birth denotes a person who has come into this incarnation with a “knowing” of some sort. It may be viewed as a gift of insight into any subject. They need to use their intuition in life and go with their “gut instincts”. Often they are labeled as slow thinkers or someone who cannot retrieve information quickly but they basically take in knowledge and disseminate it differently. They have had experiences in their past life that are more helpful for them than to a person with a direct Mercury at birth. Karmically they have brought over in this life the instinct to “know” how to respond in the best manner for them. What they do learn in this life, in the form of new communication or learning skills, will be carried over into the next life. Then if Mercury is direct natively in that life, they will be able to express it in the usual accepted manner. The house occupied by Mercury shows the area where you had this prior knowledge and your choice of environment where you wish to play it out in this life.

VENUS — A retrograde Venus gives the person the ability to be more subjective in their desires, who and how they love and concerns for financial freedom. Their past life conditioned them in these areas to accept a different approach than others. Who and what they attract in their lives will suit them perfectly. A Venus retrograde only asks to “do their own thing” and to have no judgment placed on them. When society does place rules in the area of Venus, the person can feel like an outcast. Their karma in this life is to find freedom of their choices as to who and how they love and how they meet their financial needs.

MARS — A retrograde Mars will always take a different course of action in life. Past life karma has afforded them the instinct to get through this life in a different manner than individuals who have a direct Mars. The person is not as direct in their actions as other people. They would rather take the indirect approach to life and exert their drive and ambition from behind the scenes. They have the past life experiences to draw from for guidance. They have the ability to know the proper course of their actions. When life presents them opportunities for taking a new direction, they will succeed if left to their own instincts. They are the individuals who cannot be pushed into making fast decisions. Mars is the planet where we can express those things in life that is most important to us and it is the area we want to direct our energy. A retrograde Mars knows how they are to perform in this world and their choice of area of life.

JUPITER — A retrograde Jupiter can cause the individual to turn inward with their expression of life. Rather than outwardly express great joy and a celebration of life, the person seems to be so stoic and serious in their approach. There may be a conflict over religion or spiritual beliefs with them and those around them. With Jupiter being retrograde they may seem to take life more serious, but the individual can face life with assurance of not overdoing. The person may have a comfortable presence of confidence without seeming to be arrogant. In their past life, the individual has learned the lesson of when to “go for it” and when to “lay in wait”. The placement of Jupiter and where it rules is the area of an inwardly optimistic individual.

SATURN — A retrograde Saturn makes the individual seek a different kind of responsibility and purpose in life. The person may be challenged by either the father or other authority figures to take more responsibility for their actions. Through the past life experiences, they answer their critics with a slow persistence of reaching their goals in life. Where the planet is by house and where it rules shows the area where they will have to strive hard for success. A retrograde Saturn builds the character to accept small gains in the long process of success. Security issues need to be addressed in their present life and only when the ego does not interfere, does the individual feel a sense of peace. Saturn's sign in the chart is where the person needs to address the demands and responsibilities of life.

URANUS — A retrograde Uranus gives the individual the feeling of having more control over their life. Past life experiences have readied them for the unexpected. In doing this, they feel they can handle those things out of their control. They may appear more orthodox to those around them than individuals with a direct Uranus in their chart. The house of Aquarius and where Uranus falls in the chart marks the areas of insight into spiritual laws of the Universe. In their past life, they were rebels and paid a heavy price for that. Now they choose not be so rebellious and work within the rules of society. They are individuals who can make old things new for the world. An example would be taking a branch of study and making it usable for the masses. Having a retrograde Uranus in the chart can make the person inventive. They also may have the ability to develop principles of knowledge easier than others who may have a direct Uranus. This is because they perceive those things through their higher mind.

NEPTUNE — A retrograde Neptune gives the person a need to serve. They are the spiritual warriors of the Universe. Through sacrifice in this life, the person feels loved and useful. They need to be needed. They are ready in this life to pay the price for love and devotion. They can be extremely serving and postulant individuals. They learned this expression of service well in their last lifetime. The sign of Pisces and where Neptune is by house marks the areas in this lifetime that need to be addressed. They can call upon the mystic side of the Universe for guidance in their life, but the ease of it can make the person an addict to seeking help in this way.

PLUTO — A retrograde Pluto brings in more souls than any other retrograde planet because it is farthest from the Sun, and the duration is the longest. These are souls who have come as a group to change the world. They were active in this pursuit in their last life and want a chance to complete it now. The house of Scorpio and where Pluto points to the places where the person has an advantage over others, because they have control over the direction of this intense energy. They do have the tendency to manipulate in very covert ways, but without the desire to be in charge. They only want to be part of the changes made in the world by their generation.