

Retrograde Planets

By Virginia Reyer

Mercury is Rx for 24 days; is stationary for approximately 3 days.
Venus is Rx for 42 days; is stationary for approximately 11 days.
Mars is Rx for 80 days; is stationary for approximately 20 days.
Jupiter is Rx for 120 days; is stationary for approximately 10 days.
Saturn is Rx for 140 days; is stationary for approximately 10 days.
Uranus is Rx for 150 days; is stationary for approximately 16 days.
Neptune is Rx for 160 days; is stationary for approximately 16 days.
Pluto is Rx for 160 days; is stationary for approximately 16 days.

The Sun and Moon are never retrograde. Planets from Mars to Pluto turn Rx when they reach an opposition to the Sun, and outer planets remain Rx longest.

With retrograde planets in their natal chart, people sometimes look to the past to find solutions for their current problems. It is not easy to let go of the past. Retrograde planets do not work to their best potential. It is not that they don't work well, but the individual with the retrograde planets does not apply them much in his current life. Instead, he is trying to fit the present world into his past encounters. For example, males with Venus Rx tend to avoid females, and females with Mars Rx experience similar difficulties relating to males. With Pluto Rx, the sexuality is based upon past life memories buried deep in the subconscious.

All retrogrades have three phases: the direct motion until the first station, the retrograde motion, and then the direct motion following the second station. The stationary periods in between are the most powerful, as the planet slows down to change direction.

Some individuals have multiple Rx planets, which can bring powerful karmic lessons that bring the past forward. The more Rx planets an individual has, the more difficult his life becomes; and he grows more introspective and develops within himself a separate life which can be opposed to the outer life. Retrogrades occur on an unconscious level, and if an individual turns his consciousness to spiritual levels he will come to discover a great awareness of how to help others.

Since retrograde planets do not give benefits as do direct planets, interpreting them can be confusing. The meanings of Rx planets are determined by the sign and house they occupy, along with the aspects they make. Retrograde planets work differently and need extra understanding, the more so if they are intercepted; in this case, the potency of the Rx planet will be marked and stepped up.

Some occult influence is connected with an Rx planet, or it can manifest physically, especially if posited in the 1st or 6th houses, and health problems can be psychological.

Any planet makes a threefold aspect by going Rx or Direct in motion. When the planets are stationary Rx or D., they exhibit the strongest repeating characteristics. Natively, Rx planets repeat previous incidents or issues from former lives which were not fully finished with. The duration of the retrograde, like an interception, has to do with its degree, or phase, to be overcome by progression. Sometimes a planet that goes Rx by progression can take the rest of the lifetime before it returns to its natal position. Planets can also be influenced by being in detriment or fall, or conjunct some fixed star.

The influence of a benefic planet is weakened when Rx and the planet behaves inharmoniously. Malefic Rx planets increase their potencies. Natal retrogrades act as though they are in the 12th house; that is, they express on an inner, deeper level that is not easily observed on the surface and seems to echo the karmic influence of the 29th degree. Retrograde planets confer the ability for spiritual development, as they can give inner strength.

Mercury Rx is never more than 28° from the Sun. Retrograde Mercury has a fault-finding inferiority complex. These individuals find it difficult to concentrate and to focus. Slow perception can create learning difficulties. Excessive nervous activity can manifest as difficulties with the family, relatives, and others. A lack of patience can create poor judgment through impulsive thinking, as the person is on a different thought plane. The Rx Mercury makes mental concentration difficult, and irritability triggers feelings of separation. The individual is uncommunicative or has superficial, unpopular opinions. The individual is plagued by petty worries and annoyances. His ideas have power but he lacks the opportunities for them to manifest. He can be self-critical, worries a lot, has difficulty making quick decisions, and can be absent-minded and uninformed. Criticism and recklessness can lead to resentments.

Venus Rx is never more than 48° away from the Sun. It signifies that sensuality and love do not flow smoothly. There is always difficulty with the opposite sex, as the individual unconsciously tries to program her relationships to fit into his past patterns, creating misunderstandings. Venus Rx is about love in a past life, for male or female. People with this placement have a powerful tendency to mistrust most offers of love and tend to jump to conclusions about feelings. They want to be reached and touched but do not want to admit it; and in fact they are difficult to reach and touch, as they are fearful of being hurt. They respond poorly to the emotional needs of others.

Retrograde Venus has a tendency to hide from her own feelings; therefore, she tends to go through life the hard way. Feeling sorry for herself causes unhappiness and social disharmony. This person does not value the finer things of life. In the male, intrigues lead to enmity with women, disappointments, and unsatisfactory arrangements with others. Rx Venus creates a disappointing atmosphere. It loves physical and emotional pleasures, but these become detrimental through excess and lack of self-control. Inner conflict and confusion inhibit maturity; this person is a late bloomer and untidy. Financial strain and extravagance can cause setbacks, restrictions, and delays. She may keep her emotions under tight control and may look for abnormal relationships.

Mars Rx is combativeness, friction, temper, passion, severe temperament, impulsiveness to act and assert himself based on personal desire. Passion and anger are expressed differently. Undue haste can cause accidents. Destructive activity. Relationships are nearly always distorted on the sexual level and can result in impotence, or the sex drive is increased and never feels satisfied. This person is likely to have multiple partners and/or perversion.

The Mars Rx position is more difficult for females. Mars Rx can cause feelings of guilt and blame, which tend to cause isolation. The individual wants to feel close but holds himself back. This leads to inner tension and an overreaction to pressure from those around him. He feels highly insecure about his sexuality, and the sexual drive does not flow smoothly with males. He has much to learn about give and take in relationships. Rx Mars in women with overcharged sexual energy and tension can cause frigidity and difficulty in relation to the male principle. Conflicts can flare up. It can also present a liability to imprisonment, danger of slander or scandal, and loss of reputation. Unfortunate adventures. Labor troubles. Feverish complaints and lack of energy. Unreliability in love relationship. Actions are governed by instinct.

Jupiter Rx is overconfidence, extravagance, overbearing and too blunt. Can create lawlessness and problems with authorities. Losses through misjudgment and gambling. Has a strong sense of righteousness and is very opinionated when it comes to religion. Lives in a world which has been internalized. Jupiter Rx pushes conflicts inward and backward into the past, and memories are usually exaggerated. Prefers to think on a grand scale and can be very creative if allowed to do things in his own way. Is overconfident and gullible. Peculiar experience in connection with the affections, and with political and foreign affairs. Loves comfort and has a materialistic attitude toward life. Is over-indulgent, needs organization or education and self-confidence and faith.

Saturn Rx gives a deep sense of frustration, obstruction, selfishness, slowness, limitation, stinginess, secretiveness. Brings lack of progress, feelings of inferiority and timidity. Rx Saturn always indicates a continuous karma from the past, and much of what is done is a repeat of the past. Rx Saturn steadies ambition, lacks confidence, and is highly resistant to change and tends to keep the individual tied to the past. Has inner fears of commitments. Sexually there are restrictions bordering on impotence; the sexual nature is rooted in the past. Struggle with opponents and hard work without recognition. Can be self-defeating, with many stress patterns. Can be overly critical; needs more insight. Saturn Rx brings karmic duties, and frustration can be therapeutic in developing inner strength. The individual should not build a wall around himself; is inhibited or sad and weak, complaining, reluctant and shrewd, does not miss a trick.

With Uranus Rx, the individual nature is highly unpredictable and arrogant. Tension brings unexpected actions and reversals. It is explosive, with sudden, uncontrollable changes. Free-wheeling. Furious resentments, unfeeling and weird. Eccentricity. Fanaticism. Spasmodic action and unusual pursuits. Difficulty in keeping friends and also a lack of friends. Is easily offended and difficult to live with. Rx Uranus plays havoc in human relationships; can be selfish. New beginnings create new karma by doing

things no one has ventured to do before. He brings many ideas into the life which have to be put into practice. He needs a lot of room to follow his creative instincts, for good or bad.

Rx Uranus has to do with irresponsibility. Extremes can create extraordinary accidents. Gives mysterious aspirations and subconscious forces, an obstinate and restless nature, and changeability of character. Uranus Rx is unpredictable, impractical, and group-oriented; a roving and radical bohemian who is ignored. Unconventional. Impatient and restless, or lives in a state of extreme urgency; a rolling stone who needs inner freedom.

Neptune Rx is disillusioning. It is characterized by chaotic mental conditions, morbidity, deception, dishonesty, and self-deceit. Addictive. Brings deceptive conditions that are hard to diagnose. Dreamy and impractical. Vague or weird apprehensions. Feels like having lost spiritual values and feels insecure. Cloaks issues with vagueness, obscurity, elusiveness, and confusion. Fictitious names, secretive enemies and hidden places with unrealistic fantasies, or a chaotic mentality. The personality of the individual is not understood by others: he vibrates to a higher music heard only by himself and lives in a state of illusion. Is easily influenced, with lack of clarity and emotional distortion. The inner or psychic life is open to external influences, inclinations and unconscious complexes; unable to use his intuition.

Pluto Rx is so half the time. Gives force, destruction, struggle, intensity, and sensuality. Is manipulative, emotionally dominating and possessive, with uncommon phobias. Gives explosive actions; is power-driven and controlling to the detriment of others. Ill-considered decisions which prove irrevocable. Has low morality, and the individual is constantly questioning the values of others. His drive is not only physical but also mental and cosmic as well. Pluto Rx gives a very strong sexual nature and is highly secretive. Pluto's influence is not of the milk and water nature, but rather drastic. Has fortitude and passion. Ruthless use of force or coercion to agitate. Strong dynamic urges; the acceptance of dangerous missions; extreme motivation. Pluto has mass consciousness and a sense of guilt; seeks transformation.