



‘Astrology: Rites of Passage’

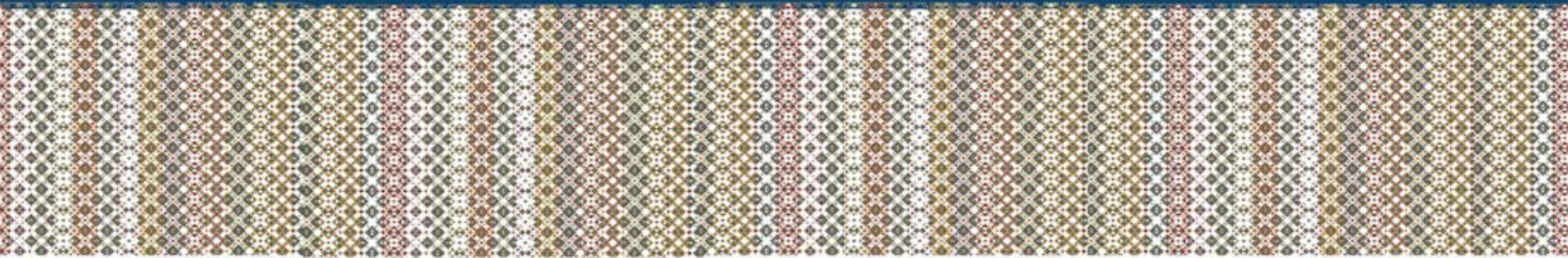
JOURNEY THROUGH LIFE: A CULTURAL PERSPECTIVE OF PLANETARY CYCLES

Within society major life experiences are acknowledged and defined through ceremony and ritual.

These transitions often correspond with significant points within planetary cycles.

Viewed through the lens of astrology these aspects enrich our comprehension of lessons learned as we progress through life.

By Marco Aurélio De Moraes



Rites of Passage - definition:

Ceremonies that mark important transitional periods in a person's life, such as birth, puberty, marriage, having children, and death. **Rites of passage** usually involve ritual activities and teachings designed to strip individuals of their original roles and prepare them for new roles.

A **rite of passage** is a celebration of the passage which occurs when an individual leaves one group to enter another. It involves a significant change of status in society. In cultural anthropology the term is the Anglicisation of *rite de passage*, a French term innovated by the ethnographer Arnold van Gennep in his work *Les rites de passage*, "The Rites of Passage." The term is now fully adopted into anthropology as well as into the literature and popular cultures of many modern languages.

TYPES AND EXAMPLES

Rites of passage are diverse, and are found throughout many cultures around the world.

PHASES OF RITES OF PASSAGE

1. **SEPARATION** - Birth, adolescence, leaving home, marriage, death
2. **TRANSITION** - Learning appropriate behaviour for new phase being entered
3. **INCORPORATION** - Participant is formally admitted into the new role

Coming of age

- Bar and Bat Mitzvah
- Breeching (boy is first dressed in trousers)
- Débutante ball
- Ear piercing (Canada, the UK and the USA)
- First day of school
- First house key (this is a sign that a child's parents think he/she is responsible enough to be left alone at home while they are away).
- Scarification and various other physical endurances
- Learning to drive (Earning a driver's license)
- First menstruation
- Learning to read and write
- Prom
- Graduation
- Moving out
- Wedding

Religious

- *Amrit Sanchar* in Sikhism (ceremony of initiation or baptism)
- Baptism or Christening (by some faith traditions)
- Bar and Bat Mitzvah in Judaism (bar for boys; bat for girls)
- Circumcision (Bris in Judaism, in Islam, in Coptic Christianity and the Ethiopian Orthodox Church)
- Confirmation (completion of baptismal grace)
- First Eucharist and First Confession (especially First Communion in Catholicism)
- Hajj (annual Islamic pilgrimage to Mecca)
- Muraqanna or Hair cutting in Hinduism

Military

- Boot Camp and Officer Candidate School are rites of passage from civilian to military life.
- Blood wings (the pins of the badge pointing into the chest of the graduate)
- Line-crossing ceremony (commemoration of a sailor's first crossing of the Equator)

Academic

- Graduation

Vocational/professional

- White coat ceremony in medicine and pharmacy.
- The Ritual of the Calling of an Engineer, also known as the Iron Ring Ceremony

Sports

- *Batizados* (Baptism) in Capoeira (Brazil)
- Black Belt Grading in Martial Arts

Other

- Castration in some sects and special castes

The main rites of passage during the life of a Buddhist

INITIATION - No special ceremony required

MARRIAGE - in a temple

DYING - Sacred texts may be read

DEATH - Path to rebirth or enlightenment

FUNERAL - White cloth draped on coffin

The main rites of passage during the life of a Christian

BAPTISM - Holy water sprinkled on head

CHRISMATION - Anointment with Holy Chrism

FIRST COMMUNION - Sacrament of Holy Eucharist first received (Catholics)

CONFIRMATION - Officially renewing the promises made at baptism

ADULT BAPTISM - Promises made to follow Jesus

MARRIAGE - Usually in church

PRAYER FOR DYING - Catholics may be given Last Rites

DEATH - Sometimes final respects paid at open coffin

FUNERAL - Service followed by burial/cremation

The main rites of passage during the life of a Muslim

ADHAN - Prayer in newborn's right ear

AQEEQAH - Ceremony when seven days old

MARRIAGE - Aqd Nikah (marriage contract) is read and signed

HAJJ - Not a rite, but a lifetime expectation of pilgrimage

DYING - Those close to death try to recite particular phrases

DEATH - Body buried facing Makkah/Mecca

The main rites of passage during the life of a Jewish

BRIT MILAH - Circumcision/naming ceremony (boys)

SIMCHAT BAT - Welcoming ceremony (girls)

BAR MITZVAH/BAT MITZVAH - Coming of age (boys at 13, girls at 12)

MARRIAGE - Wedding under canopy (huppah)

DEATH - Quick burial preferred

SHIVA - Seven days of mourning

Yahrzeit - Annual remembrance of deceased

The main rites of passage during the life of a Sikh

NAAM KARAN - Naming ceremony at gurdwara

MARRIAGE - Couple bow to holy book

AMRIT SANSKAR - A ceremony of commitment taken by some men and women

DYING - Bedside Sukhamani (Hymn of Peace)

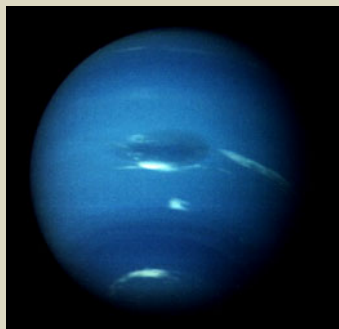
DEATH - Cremation and final prayers

MOURNING - The entire Guru Granth Sahib is read during the 10 days following someone's death

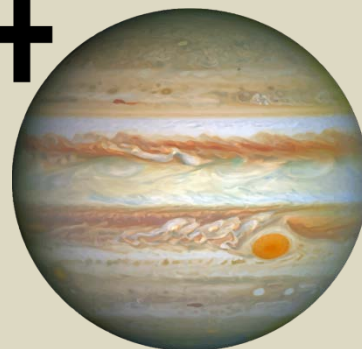
Responsibility(Respon/sibility)

Response + Ability = Responsibility (the ability to respond)

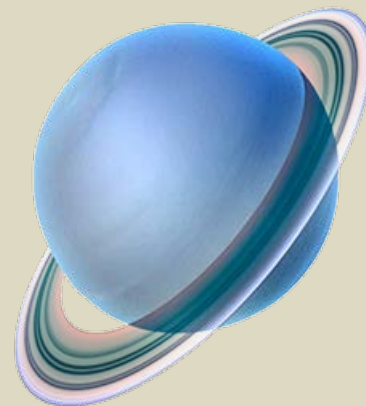
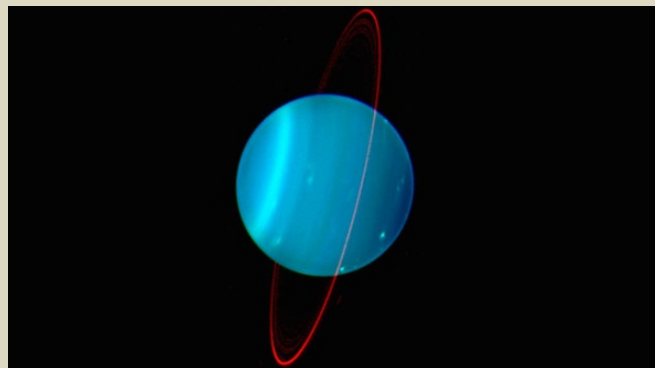
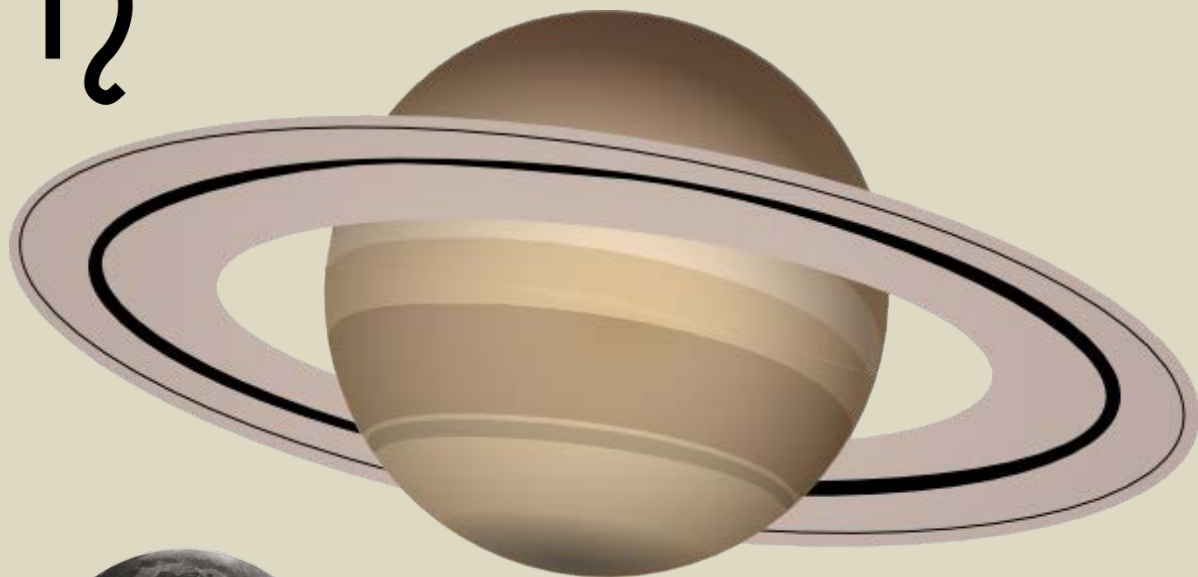
We now know that the true meaning of responsibility is response able or ability to respond. Whatever we may think, say, do, or feel - these are our responses for which we, and no one else, are responsible. This is easy to see but hard to live, for we have been taught to believe and think the opposite. So we don't consciously choose our response, we react instead, and then we blame others for our reaction. No wonder we feel imprisoned by others and our circumstances. The enlightened, on the other hand, have broken the spell, they see the illusion. They take full responsibility for their response abilities and as a consequence, they always hold their own destiny in their own hands. They are free spirits.



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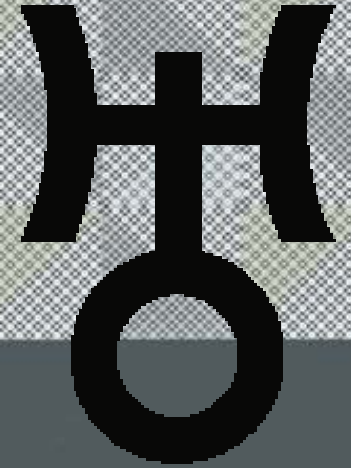


Saturn: Astrology's rites-of-passage symbol

In Greek mythology, Saturn was called Cronus, one of the seven Titans. The Greeks named him after the word “chronos,” which means time.

In antiquity, Saturn was the last planet visible to the naked eye, hence it symbolized limitations. Saturn's rings symbolize the limitations placed on us, but also the boundaries we need. Without them, we do not know how to protect ourselves and will allow negative energy into our lives.

Saturn's journey around the sun takes approximately 29 years, which is divided into four stages of life. During this time, Saturn forms several aspects to its starting position which correspond to these different times in a person's life.



Uranus

The Cycle of Individuality

The planet Uranus seems to bear a special kinship with the human race. As the astrological symbol of genius, of individuality, of rebellion against limitations.

In certain traditions, Uranus is viewed as the ruling planet of astrology. Astrology & Uranus share a common purpose - to free us from anything that limits the full, healthy expression of our natures. Society - in the form of pressures placed upon us by others - is an arch offender here. From the moment of our birth, we are given an all-embracing set of instructions regarding how to go about being human. It would be foolish in the extreme to suggest that all that instruction is damaging. Culture is a blessing and we should be thankful for it. But some of that instruction is not natural to us and if we are to be happy, we must be purged of it. And that purging is the essence of the transformation demanded by a Uranian passage.

Uranus the Teacher

The Gift: The ability to distinguish our true individuality from the desires and fantasies held about us by our family friends, and associates.

The Challenge: Can you stand up to the pressures of conformity, asserting your right to be yourself in the face of censure and rejection - and in the face of whatever Social conventions you may have unwittingly internalised.

The Progressed Moon

By progression the Moon's cycle of 27.3 years marks three distinct phases of life and is symbolic of the stages of child, parent and grandparent. While this cycle symbolises these life phases, it is also systemic of family life in that emotional changes for one generation of the family impact and parallel other generations in the family. From this vantage point, the progressed Moon reflects emotional changes not only in our own life but that of our children, our mothers and grandmothers.

The progressed Moon records all our emotional experiences and remembers them; in essence it is emotional and instinctual memory. Often as the Moon progresses through the same house (or its polarity) or aspects a planet once again in its second cycle, these feelings are brought to consciousness. We re-member. In the context of family life the progressed Moon in adulthood often triggers memories and feelings from our earliest family experiences.

The Progressed Moon Cycle's Three Phases

	YOUTH	ADULT	ELDER
Progressed Moon's Full Cycle	0 – 27.3	27.3 – 54.6	54.6 – 82
Progressed Moon's Waxing Square	7	34	61
Progressed Moon's Opposition	13 – 14	41	68
Progressed Moon's Waning Square	20	47 – 48	75
Progressed Moon's Return	27	54 – 55	82
The Family Image	The Child	The Parent	The Grandparent
Image of the Goddess	Artemis	Selene Mnemosyne	Hecate
The Matriarchal Image	Maiden	Mother	Crone
Keywords	Absorbing	Remembering	Feeling



Chiron

Accepting the Wound of Individuation

The Chiron Return, around age 50, the more evolved way of viewing old wounds, physical or emotional, should have taken hold. We would have found your “holes”—what’s missing in your life—so you can patch them up and experience wholeness and fulfillment. (Sometimes words are so literal!)

This is the perfect window for grappling with any unfinished business when it comes to healing—to catalyze that chain reaction toward wholeness. If you’ve been working on it, your Chironic wound has become more of a sore spot than an open sore. It will always be there for biofeedback, like an old war injury, but by now, you know its purpose is truly divine.



CYCLES	Duration
Moon	29 days
Mercury	87.96 days
Venus	224.68 days
Mars	686.98 days
Jupiter	11.862 years
Progressed Moon	27.3 years
Saturn	29.456 years
Chiron	49 to 51 years
Uranus	84.07 years
Neptune	164.81 years, 280 days (a mean annual motion of 2°10'54")
Pluto	247.69 years (with a mean annual motion that, because of the extreme ellipticity of its orbit, varies from 1° in Pisces through Gemini, to 2.5° in Virgo through Sagittarius)

Special Ages on the Wheel of Life

Ages 12, 24, 36, 48, 60, 72, 84, 96 Jupiter Return

Ages 14, 44, 74 Saturn Opposition

Ages 21-24 Pluto Sextile

Ages 27, 54-55 Progressed Moon Return

Ages 29, 58-59 Saturn Return

Ages 28-30 Neptune Sextile

Ages 36-43 Pluto Square (Midlife)

Ages 38-41 Uranus Opposition (Midlife)

Ages 40-43 Neptune Square (Midlife)

Age 50 Chiron Return

Ages 55-57 Neptune Trine

Ages 56-60 Pluto Trine

Age 84 Uranus Return

Special Ages on the Wheel of Life

Age 07 1st Saturn Square

Age 09-10 1st Lunar Nodes Opposition

Age 12 1st Jupiter Return

Age 14 1st Saturn Opposition

Age 18-19 1st Lunar Nodes Return

Age 21 2nd Saturn Square

Age 21-24 Pluto Sextile

Age 24 2nd Jupiter Return

Ages 27 1st Progressed Moon Return

Age 27-28 2nd Lunar Nodes Opposition

Age 28-30 Neptune Sextile

Age 29 1st Saturn Return

Age 36 3rd Jupiter Return

Age 36-43 Pluto Square (Midlife)

Age 37-38 2nd Lunar Nodes Return

Age 38-41 Uranus Opposition (Midlife)

Age 40-43 Neptune Square (Midlife)

Age 44 2nd Saturn Opposition

Age 46-47 3rd Lunar Nodes Opposition

Age 48 4th Jupiter Return

Age 50 Chiron Return

Age 54-55 2nd Progressed Moon Return

Age 55-56 3rd Lunar Nodes Return

Age 55-57 Neptune Trine

Age 56-60 Pluto Trine

Age 58-59 2nd Saturn Return

Age 60 5th Jupiter Return

Age 65-66 4th Lunar Nodes Opposition

Age 72 6th Jupiter Return

Age 74 3rd Saturn Opposition

Age 74-75 4th Lunar Nodes Return

Age 81-82 3rd Progressed Moon Return

Age 83-84 5th Lunar Nodes Opposition

Age 84 7th Jupiter

Age 84 Uranus Return

Age 87-88 4th Saturn Return

Thank You

References:

- Tutors, friends and colleagues;
- Faculty's on line and class material;
- The Rites of Passage, by Arnold van Gennep;
- Cycles of Life: Initiations through the Journey of Life, by Brian Clark;
- Dictionary;
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