Planetary Highlights of 2005

Positions of the Planets in 2005

Sign Ingresses

Throughout the year Uranus, Neptune and Pluto remain in Pisces, Aquarius and Sagittarius. The three outer planets will not change signs until 2008, when Pluto enters Capricorn. In 2010 Uranus will enter Aries, and in 2011 Neptune will enter Pisces.

During 2005 the most significant ingresses are Saturn's entrance into Leo on July 16, and Jupiter's into Scorpio on October 25. Neither retrogrades back into the previous sign. Jupiter stays in Scorpio until November, 2006, and Saturn stays in Leo until September, 2007.

Elements and Modes

Having none of the five outermost planets in an Earth sign tends to make Earth the least-emphasized element during 2005 as well as during the next few years. On the days when the Moon is not in an Earth sign, there will be complete *voids* in Earth during the periods Feb 2-6, March 20-April 15, and May 28-July 22.

As for emphasized elements, here are the periods that have 5 or more planets in a given element:

- February 2-16: 5 planets in Air
- February 26-March 4: 5 planets in Water
- May 28-June 3: 5 planets in Air
- July 16-28: 5 planets in Fire.

These all occur before July 28. For the remainder of the year, the planets will be quite evenly distributed in the elements.

In contrast, distribution in the modes is normal until June and skewed thereafter:

- Although none of the three outer planets is in a Cardinal sign, having Saturn in Cancer and Jupiter in Libra contributes *to 6 planets being in Cardinal signs from June 21 to 27*.
- After Saturn leaves Cancer on July 16 and Jupiter leaves Libra on October 25, *there are complete voids in Cardinal signs from October 25 to November 5, and from December 15 to 21.*
- Having Saturn in Leo and Jupiter in Scorpio contributes to *6 planets being in Fixed signs from October 25 to 30.*

Both the missing and the emphasized elements and modes are highlighted in the table below.

2005 Ingresses, Excluding the Moon

	Su	Me	Ve	Ma	Ju	Sa	Ur	Ne	Pl		F	E	A	W		C	F	*M*
Jan																		
1	**Cap**	*Sag*	*Sag*	*Sag*	**Lib**	**Can**	*Pis*	Aqu	*Sag*		4	1	2	2		**3**	1	*5*
9	**Cap**	**>Cap**	**>Cap**	*Sag*	**Lib**	**Can**	*Pis*	Aqu	*Sag*		2	3	2	2		**5**	1	*3*
19	>Aqu	**Cap**	**Cap**	*Sag*	**Lib**	**Can**	*Pis*	Aqu	*Sag*		2	2	3	2		**4**	2	*3*
30	Aqu	>Aqu	**Cap**	*Sag*	**Lib**	**Can**	*Pis*	Aqu	*Sag*		2	1	4	2		**3**	3	*3*
Feb																		
2	Aqu	Aqu	>Aqu	*Sag*	**Lib**	**Can**	*Pis*	Aqu	*Sag*		2	0	5	2		**2**	4	*3*
6	Aqu	Aqu	Aqu	**>Cap**	**Lib**	**Can**	*Pis*	Aqu	*Sag*		1	1	5	2		**3**	4	*2*
16	Aqu	*>Pis*	Aqu	**Cap**	**Lib**	**Can**	*Pis*	Aqu	*Sag*		1	1	4	3		**3**	3	*3*
18	*>Pis*	*Pis*	Aqu	**Cap**	**Lib**	**Can**	*Pis*	Aqu	*Sag*		1	1	3	4		**3**	2	*4*
26	*Pis*	*Pis*	*>Pis*	**Cap**	**Lib**	**Can**	*Pis*	Aqu	*Sag*		1	1	2	5		**3**	1	*5*
Mar																		
4	*Pis*	**>Ari**	*Pis*	**Cap**	**Lib**	**Can**	*Pis*	Aqu	*Sag*		2	1	2	4		**4**	1	*4*
20	**>Ari**	**Ari**	*Pis*	>Aqu	**Lib**	**Can**	*Pis*	Aqu	*Sag*		3	0	3	3		**4**	2	*3*
22	**Ari**	**Ari**	**>Ari**	Aqu	**Lib**	**Can**	*Pis*	Aqu	*Sag*		4	0	3	2		**5**	2	*2*
Apr																		
15	**Ari**	**Ari**	>Tau	Aqu	**Lib**	**Can**	*Pis*	Aqu	*Sag*		3	1	3	2		**4**	3	*2*
19	>Tau	**Ari**	Tau	Aqu	**Lib**	**Can**	*Pis*	Aqu	*Sag*		2	2	3	2		**3**	4	*2*
30	Tau	**Ari**	Tau	*>Pis*	**Lib**	**Can**	*Pis*	Aqu	*Sag*		2	2	2	3		**3**	3	*3*
May																		
9	Tau	**Ari**	*>Gem*	*Pis*	**Lib**	**Can**	*Pis*	Aqu	*Sag*		2	1	3	3		**3**	2	*4*
12	Tau	>Tau	*Gem*	*Pis*	**Lib**	**Can**	*Pis*	Aqu	*Sag*		1	2	3	3		**2**	3	*4*
20	*>Gem*	Tau	*Gem*	*Pis*	**Lib**	**Can**	*Pis*	Aqu	*Sag*		1	1	4	3		**2**	2	*5*
28	*Gem*	*>Gem*	*Gem*	*Pis*	**Lib**	**Can**	*Pis*	Aqu	*Sag*		1	0	5	3		**2**	1	*6*
Jun																		
3	*Gem*	*Gem*	**>Can**	*Pis*	**Lib**	**Can**	*Pis*	Aqu	*Sag*		1	0	4	4		**3**	1	*5*
11	*Gem*	**>Can**	**Can**	**>Ari**	**Lib**	**Can**	*Pis*	Aqu	*Sag*		2	0	3	4		**5**	1	*3*
21	**>Can**	**Can**	**Can**	**Ari**	**Lib**	**Can**	*Pis*	Aqu	*Sag*		2	0	2	5		**6**	1	*2*
27	**Can**	>Leo	**Can**	**Ari**	**Lib**	**Can**	*Pis*	Aqu	*Sag*		3	0	2	4		**5**	2	*2*
28	**Can**	Leo	>Leo	**Ari**	**Lib**	**Can**	*Pis*	Aqu	*Sag*		4	0	2	3		**4**	3	*2*
Jul																		
16	**Can**	Leo	Leo	**Ari**	**Lib**	>Leo	*Pis*	Aqu	*Sag*		5	0	2	2		**3**	4	*2*
22	>Leo	Leo	*>Vir*	**Ari**	**Lib**	Leo	*Pis*	Aqu	*Sag*		5	1	2	1		**2**	4	*3*
28	Leo	Leo	*Vir*	>Tau	**Lib**	Leo	*Pis*	Aqu	*Sag*		4	2	2	1		**1**	5	*3*
Aug																		
16	Leo	Leo	**>Lib**	Tau	**Lib**	Leo	*Pis*	Aqu	*Sag*		4	1	3	1		**2**	5	*2*
22	*>Vir*	Leo	**Lib**	Tau	**Lib**	Leo	*Pis*	Aqu	*Sag*		3	2	3	1		**2**	4	*3*
Sep																		
04	*Vir*	*>Vir*	**Lib**	Tau	**Lib**	Leo	*Pis*	Aqu	*Sag*		2	3	3	1		**2**	3	*4*
11	*Vir*	*Vir*	>Sco	Tau	**Lib**	Leo	*Pis*	Aqu	*Sag*		2	3	2	2		**1**	4	*4*
20	*Vir*	**>Lib**	Sco	Tau	**Lib**	Leo	*Pis*	Aqu	*Sag*		2	2	3	2		**2**	4	*3*
22	**>Lib**	**Lib**	Sco	Tau	**Lib**	Leo	*Pis*	Aqu	*Sag*		2	1	4	2		**3**	4	*2*
Oct																		
7	**Lib**	**Lib**	*>Sag*	Tau	**Lib**	Leo	*Pis*	Aqu	*Sag*		3	1	4	1		**3**	3	*3*
8	**Lib**	>Sco	*Sag*	Tau	**Lib**	Leo	*Pis*	Aqu	*Sag*		3	1	3	2		**2**	4	*3*
23	>Sco	Sco	*Sag*	Tau	**Lib**	Leo	*Pis*	Aqu	*Sag*		3	1	2	3		**1**	5	*3*
25	Sco	Sco	*Sag*	Tau	>Sco	Leo	*Pis*	Aqu	*Sag*		3	1	1	4		**0**	6	*3*
30	Sco	*>Sag*	*Sag*	Tau	Sco	Leo	*Pis*	Aqu	*Sag*		4	1	1	3		**0**	5	*4*
Nov																		
5	Sco	*Sag*	**>Cap**	Tau	Sco	Leo	*Pis*	Aqu	*Sag*		3	2	1	3		**1**	5	*3*
22	*>Sag*	*Sag*	**Cap**	Tau	Sco	Leo	*Pis*	Aqu	*Sag*		4	2	1	2		**1**	4	*4*
26	*Sag*	<Sco	**Cap**	Tau	Sco	Leo	*Pis*	Aqu	*Sag*		3	2	1	3		**1**	5	*3*
Dec																		
12	*Sag*	*>Sag*	**Cap**	Tau	Sco	Leo	*Pis*	Aqu	*Sag*		4	2	1	2		**1**	4	*4*
15	*Sag*	*Sag*	>Aqu	Tau	Sco	Leo	*Pis*	Aqu	*Sag*		4	1	2	2		**0**	5	*4*
21	**>Cap**	*Sag*	Aqu	Tau	Sco	Leo	*Pis*	Aqu	*Sag*		3	2	2	2		**1**	5	*3*

The Range of Planetary Motion in 2005

Here is a table of where the planets will be at the beginning and end of 2005, together with the changes of direction that they will make in the course of the year:

Range of Planetary Motion

Point	Longitude Jan 1 05	Station 1	Station 2	Station 3	Station 4	Station 5	Station 6	Longitude Jan 1 06
Mer	18°Sg24 Direct	14°Ar06' SR Mar 20	01°Ar45' SD Apr 12	20°Le28' SR Jul 23	08°Le45' SD Aug 16	10°Sg56' SR Nov 14	24°Sc45' SD Dec 4	25°Sg39 Direct
Ven	19°Sg06 Direct	01°Aq28' SR Dec 24						00°Aq17 Retrograde
Mar	04°Sg21 Direct	23°Ta22' SR Oct 1	08°Ta14' SD Dec 10					11°Ta05 Direct
Jup	17°Li17 Direct	18°Li52' SR Feb 2	08°Li56' SD Jun 5					13°Sc18 Direct
Sat	24°Cn56 Retrograde	20°Cn24' SD Mar 22	11°Le19' SR Nov 22					09°Le55 Retrograde
Ura	03°Pi55 Direct	10°Pi46' SR Jun 14	06°Pi51' SD Nov 16					07°Pi43 Direct
Nep	13°Aq51 Direct	17°Aq36' SR May 19	14°Aq49' SD Oct 26					15°Aq59 Direct
Plu	22°Sg43 Direct	24°Sg31' SR Mar 27	21°Sg49' SD Sep 2					24°Sg53 Direct
Nod	28°Ar19 Retrograde							09°Ar00 Retrograde

Planetary Clusters

Several times in a century there may be 7 or more planets within 20 degrees, and during a given year it's possible to have a dozen or more clusterings of 5 planets within a 20-degree arc. However, in 2004 there was only one such 5-planet cluster, and in 2005 there are only two.

- The first 2005 cluster takes place from 16:02 UT on January 7 to 4:11 on January 9 and has the Moon, Mars, Pluto, Mercury and Venus grouped in Sagittarius.

- The second cluster occurs from 12:37 on February 7 to 11:42 on February 9 and has the Moon, Venus, Mercury, Neptune and the Sun in Capricorn and Aquarius.

In both cases the five-planet cluster ends as soon as the Moon has swept past the slower-moving planets.

The Sun-Moon Cycle

Eclipses

In 2005 the eclipses take place in April and October. All four 2005 eclipses are Metonic returns of the eclipses of 1986, repeating on the same dates and degrees. (While many eclipses repeat at 19-year intervals, some do not.)

None of the 2005 eclipses is completely total. The April 8 solar eclipse is a hybrid, appearing total in some areas, and either annular or partial in others. The October 3 solar eclipse is annular (meaning that the Moon appears centered on the Sun, but is far enough from the Earth that the Sun is partially visible as a ring around the Moon's dark disc). As for the lunar eclipses, the one on April 24 is a penumbral eclipse or appulse -- that is, not quite an eclipse, because the Moon, though dimmed, never reaches the darker part of the Earth's shadow. The October 17 lunar eclipse is partial, so that the Earth's shadow appears to take a bite out of the Moon but never covers it fully.

This does not mean, however, that all the 2005 eclipses are trivial! The October 3 solar eclipse lasts much longer than the others this year (4.53 minutes) and is problematic, especially when set for New York or Washington and examined on the 90-degree dial. This eclipse deserves the most careful scrutiny. It is even more problematic when viewed with the Uranian planets.

Supermoons and Other Notable Lunations

Eclipses are especially important New and Full Moons, because they take place when the Moon is near one of its nodes so that the Moon is conjunct or opposition the Sun in latitude as well as longitude.

Other New and Full Moons gain importance because they occur close to the time when the Moon is at its perigee. This is the point where, during its monthly cycle, the Moon comes closest to the Earth. Called a Supermoon by Richard Nolle, a perigee New or Full Moon is important because the Moon, being closer, exerts a greater gravitational force upon the Earth. New and Full Moon tides are always higher than at other times of the month, and when the New or Full Moon is also at perigee, the tidal effect is even greater. While this is a gravitational effect, it's possible that perigee Moons, like eclipses, also assume increased importance at the symbolic level.

Another way in which a New or Full Moon can be emphasized is by occurring while the Moon is at maximum or zero declination. When lunation, perigee and declination cycles coincide, as they do on January 10, 2005, it is definitely something to note. We discuss the January 10 lunation further on under Declination Events, in connection with the Moon's abnormally high declination during 2005.

Eclipses and Lunar Phases, 2005

Jan 3	17:45	**3rd Quarter** Moon at 13°Li28', Sun at 13°Cp28'
Jan 10	12:02	**New Moon, Supermoon at max. declination and near Earth's perihelion.** Moon at 20°Cp21', Sun at 20°Cp21'. Moon perigee 10:05, Earth perihelion 1/2 at 00:36, max. south declination 11:19 at 27S56.
Jan 17	06:57	**1st Quarter** Moon at 27°Ar16', Sun at 27°Cp16'
Jan 25	10:32	**Full Moon** Moon at 05°Le34', Sun at 05°Aq34'
Feb 2	07:26	**3rd Quarter** Moon at 13°Sc33', Sun at 13°Aq33'
Feb 8	22:28	**New Moon, Supermoon** Moon at 20°Aq16', Sun at 20°Aq16'. Moon perigee 2/7 at 22:25.
Feb 16	00:17	**1st Quarter** Moon at 27°Ta25', Sun at 27°Aq25'

Feb 24	04:53	**Full Moon** Moon at 05°Vi41', Sun at 05°Pi41'
Mar 3	17:36	**3rd Quarter** Moon at 13°Sg14', Sun at 13°Pi14'
Mar 10	09:11	**New Moon** Moon at 19°Pi54', Sun at 19°Pi54'
Mar 17	19:19	**1st Quarter** Moon at 27°Ge18', Sun at 27°Pi18'
Mar 25	20:57	**Full Moon** Moon at 05°Li18', Sun at 05°Ar18'
Apr 2	00:49	**3rd Quarter** Moon at 12°Cp23', Sun at 12°Ar23'
Apr 8	20:32	**Solar Eclipse** Moon at 19°Ar06', Sun at 19°Ar06' Annular-Total, Saros 129 (7 North). Repeats solar eclipse of 4/9/86 at 19Ar07.
Apr 16	14:37	**1st Quarter** Moon at 26°Cn42', Sun at 26°Ar42'
Apr 24	10:05	**Lunar Eclipse** Moon at 04°Sc19', Sun at 04°Ta19' Penumbral, Saros 141. Repeats lunar eclipse of 4/24/86 at 04Sc01.
May 1	06:24	**3rd Quarter** Moon at 10°Aq59', Sun at 10°Ta59'
May 8	08:46	**New Moon** Moon at 17°Ta52', Sun at 17°Ta52'
May 16	08:56	**1st Quarter** Moon at 25°Le36', Sun at 25°Ta36'
May 23	20:17	**Full Moon** Moon at 02°Sg47', Sun at 02°Ge47'
May 30	11:48	**3rd Quarter** Moon at 09°Pi10', Sun at 09°Ge10'
Jun 6	21:55	**New Moon** Moon at 16°Ge16', Sun at 16°Ge16'
Jun 15	01:21	**1st Quarter** Moon at 24°Vi03', Sun at 24°Ge03'
Jun 22	04:13	**Full Moon at max. declination.** Moon at 00°Cp51', Sun at 00°Cn51'. Max. declination 8:04 at 28S13.
Jun 28	18:23	**3rd Quarter** Moon at 07°Ar08', Sun at 07°Cn08'
Jul 6	12:02	**New Moon near max. declination**. Moon at 14°Cn31', Sun at 14°Cn31'. Max declination 7/5 at 13:09 at 28N13.
Jul 14	15:18	**1st Quarter** Moon at 22°Li16', Sun at 22°Cn16'
Jul 21	11:00	**Full Moon, Supermoon** Moon at 28°Cp47', Sun at 28°Cn47'. Moon perigee at 19:56.
Jul 28	03:19	**3rd Quarter** Moon at 05°Ta10', Sun at 05°Le10'
Aug 5	03:04	**New Moon** Moon at 12°Le48', Sun at 12°Le48'
Aug 13	02:37	**1st Quarter** Moon at 20°Sc28', Sun at 20°Le28'
Aug 19	17:52	**Full Moon, Supermoon** Moon at 26°Aq50', Sun at 26°Le50'. Moon perigee at 5:28.
Aug 26	15:18	**3rd Quarter** Moon at 03°Ge29', Sun at 03°Vi29'
Sep 3	18:45	**New Moon** Moon at 11°Vi21', Sun at 11°Vi21'
Sep 11	11:35	**1st Quarter** Moon at 18°Sg50', Sun at 18°Vi50'
Sep 18	02:01	**Full Moon** Moon at 25°Pi16', Sun at 25°Vi16'
Sep 25	06:40	**3rd Quarter** Moon at 02°Cn18', Sun at 02°Li18'
Oct 3	10:27	**Solar Eclipse** Moon at 10°Li19', Sun at 10°Li19' Annular, Saros 134 (7 South). Repeats solar eclipse of 10/3/86 at 10Li16
Oct 10	19:00	**1st Quarter** Moon at 17°Cp34', Sun at 17°Li34'
Oct 17	12:14	**Lunar Eclipse** Moon at 24°Ar13', Sun at 24°Li13' Partial, Saros 146. Repeats lunar eclipse of 10/17/86 at 24Ar06.
Oct 25	01:17	**3rd Quarter** Moon at 01°Le44', Sun at 01°Sc44'
Nov 2	01:23	**New Moon** Moon at 09°Sc43', Sun at 09°Sc43'
Nov 9	01:57	**1st Quarter** Moon at 16°Aq46', Sun at 16°Sc46'
Nov 16	00:58	**Full Moon** Moon at 23°Ta46', Sun at 23°Sc46'
Nov 23	22:11	**3rd Quarter** Moon at 01°Vi43', Sun at 01°Sg43'
Dec 1	15:00	**New Moon** Moon at 09°Sg31', Sun at 09°Sg31'
Dec 8	09:36	**1st Quarter** Moon at 16°Pi24', Sun at 16°Sg24'
Dec 15	16:15	**Full Moon near max. declination** Moon at 23°Ge48', Sun at 23°Sg48'. Max. declination 12/16 at 7:20 at 28N23.
Dec 23	19:35	**3rd Quarter** Moon at 02°Li05', Sun at 02°Cp05'
Dec 31	03:11	**New Moon** Moon at 09°Cp32', Sun at 09°Cp32'

Lunar Occultations 2005

Like solar eclipses, lunar occultations occur when the Moon is conjunct a planet or star not only in longitude but also in latitude, so that at certain localities on earth, the other body is completely obscured. An occultation is obviously more important than a simple aspect from the Moon. However, occultations gain their real importance when they repeat month after month, as they often do, giving extended emphasis to the body that is occulted.

Jan 4	01:21	17°Li34' D	**Moon occults Jupiter**
Jan 31	10:07	18°Li51' D	**Moon occults Jupiter**
Feb 27	13:45	17°Li51' R	**Moon occults Jupiter**
Mar 26	14:59	15°Li00' R	**Moon occults Jupiter**
Apr 22	17:05	11°Li37' R	**Moon occults Jupiter**
May 19	22:05	09°Li20' R	**Moon occults Jupiter**
May 31	09:39	21°Pi46' D	**Moon occults Mars**
Jun 16	06:31	09°Li07' D	**Moon occults Jupiter**
Jul 13	17:45	11°Li02' D	**Moon occults Jupiter**
Aug 10	19:07	14°Li43' D	**Moon occults Jupiter**
Sep 7	08:32	24°Li59' D	**Moon occults Venus**

During 2005, the Moon, which began occulting Jupiter in November, 2004, continues its occultations of Jupiter every month through August, 2005. On May 31, 2005 it makes a single occultation of Mars, and on September 7 it makes a single occultation of Venus. There are no further occultations of planets after September.

However, the Moon occults the fixed star Antares monthly all year -- on January 7, February 4, March 3 and 30, April 26, May 24, June 20, July 18, August 14, September 10, October 8, November 4 and December 29. Antares, a red first-magnitude star in the heart of the Scorpion, is one of the four Royal Stars of Persia. Its name is generally considered to mean “similar to,” or “the rival of” Mars. However, in astrological tradition it is not purely Mars-like. Most sources give it additional Mercury or Jupiter qualities. Fixed stars are said to heighten a chart’s potential for good or evil. In times when most fixed stars had malefic reputations, Antares was associated with rashness, imprudence and violent death. However, in her updated fixed star delineations for *Solar Fire*, Bernadette Brady says that Antares prominently placed in a chart can bring great success as long as one maintains balance and does not lapse into excesses or obsession.

Starting on September 7 and repeating on October 31, November 28 and December 25, the Moon also makes monthly occultations of Spica, a brilliant white double star that is traditionally given the nature of Mars and Venus and is associated with success and a love of the arts and sciences. Spica is the sheaf of wheat in the hand of Virgo, the fertility goddess. As Bernadette Brady says, “Spica represents the gift of this goddess. Once this gift used to be knowledge of cultivation. Now Spica represents the goddess’ gift of new knowledge and gives a potential for brilliance to any chart it touches.” Perhaps this occultation will help to add a more peaceful and constructive note to the close of the year.

Planetary Stations

When any planet nears a retrograde or direct station, its motion slows down to the pace of the slowest-moving planets, so that its effect becomes much more important and long-lasting than it would ordinarily be. The degree at which the planet comes to a full stop becomes a sensitive point that, when aspected later on, can be as significant as the degree of a major aspect or eclipse. Besides showing when and where the stations occur, the following table shows when

planets enter their retrograde arc or "shadow."Many astrologers find that the effects of a retrograde period spill over into the whole period when a planet is traversing its retrograde arc.

Current Retrograde Cycles, Planet by Planet

Mar 6 05	03:14	01°Ar45' D	**Mercury enters retrograde arc**
Mar 20 05	00:15	14°Ar06' R	**Mercury turns Retrograde** direct 4/12
Apr 12 05	07:46	01°Ar45' D	**Mercury turns Direct** retro 3/20
Apr 30 05	22:58	14°Ar06' D	**Mercury exits retrograde arc**
Jul 4 05	20:34	08°Le45' D	**Mercury enters retrograde arc**
Jul 23 05	03:01	20°Le28' R	**Mercury turns Retrograde** direct 8/16
Aug 16 05	03:51	08°Le45' D	**Mercury turns Direct** retro 7/23
Aug 30 05	04:51	20°Le28' D	**Mercury exits retrograde arc**
Oct 26 05	02:46	24°Sc45' D	**Mercury enters retrograde arc**
Nov 14 05	05:43	10°Sg56' R	**Mercury turns Retrograde** direct 12/4
Dec 4 05	02:24	24°Sc45' D	**Mercury turns Direct** retro 11/14
Dec 21 05	18:23	10°Sg56' D	**Mercury exits retrograde arc**
Nov 22 05	19:33	16°Cp01' D	**Venus enters retrograde arc**
Dec 24 05	09:37	01°Aq28' R	**Venus turns Retrograde** direct 2/3/06
Feb 3 06	09:19	16°Cp01' D	**Venus turns Direct** retro 12/24/05
Mar 7 06	04:23	01°Aq28' D	**Venus exits retrograde arc**
Aug 12 05	04:09	08°Ta14' D	**Mars enters retrograde arc**
Oct 1 05	22:04	23°Ta22' R	**Mars turns Retrograde** direct 12/10
Dec 10 05	04:04	08°Ta14' D	**Mars turns Direct** retro 10/1
Feb 3 06	22:59	23°Ta22' D	**Mars exits retrograde arc**
Nov 6 04	23:29	08°Li56' D	**Jupiter enters retrograde arc**
Feb 2 05	02:27	18°Li52' R	**Jupiter turns Retrograde** direct 6/5
Jun 5 05	07:21	08°Li56' D	**Jupiter turns Direct** retro 2/2
Sep 2 05	21:26	18°Li52' D	**Jupiter exits retrograde arc**
Aug 5 04	15:54	20°Cn24' D	**Saturn enters retrograde arc**
Nov 8 04	06:55	27°Cn21' R	**Saturn turns Retrograde** direct 3/22/05
Mar 22 05	02:54	20°Cn24' D	**Saturn turns Direct** retro 11/8/04
Jun 25 05	12:47	27°Cn21' D	**Saturn exits retrograde arc**
Aug 19 05	21:24	04°Le23' D	**Saturn enters retrograde arc**
Nov 22 05	09:01	11°Le19' R	**Saturn turns Retrograde** direct 4/5/06
Apr 5 06	12:55	04°Le23' D	**Saturn turns Direct** retro 11/22/05
Jul 10 06	11:45	11°Le19' D	**Saturn exits retrograde arc**
Feb 26 05	22:25	06°Pi51' D	**Uranus enters retrograde arc**
Jun 14 05	22:38	10°Pi46' R	**Uranus turns Retrograde** direct 11/16
Nov 16 05	00:09	06°Pi51' D	**Uranus turns Direct** retro 6/14
Mar 2 06	06:57	10°Pi46' D	**Uranus exits retrograde arc**
Jan 28 05	0:13	14°Aq49' D	**Neptune enters retrograde arc**
May 19 05	23:36	17°Aq36' R	**Neptune turns Retrograde** direct 10/26
Oct 26 05	23:25	14°Aq49' D	**Neptune turns Direct** retro 5/19
Feb 14 06	12:51	17°Aq36' D	**Neptune exits retrograde arc**
Dec 7 04	17:18	21°Sg49' D	**Pluto enters retrograde arc**
Mar 27 05	02:29	24°Sg31' R	**Pluto turns Retrograde** direct 9/2
Sep 2 05	10:52	21°Sg49' D	**Pluto turns Direct** retro 3/27
Dec 21 05	22:05	24°Sg31' D	**Pluto exits retrograde arc**

Mercury and Venus Cycles

Mercury and Venus are known as the inferior planets because, unlike the other planets, they orbit between the Earth and the Sun. Because of this, they have two kinds of conjunctions with the Sun. When they are traveling on the far side of the Sun, they make a superior conjunction, and when they are traveling on the near side of the Sun between the Sun and the Earth, they make an inferior conjunction. At the inferior conjunction, Mercury and Venus are always traveling retrograde when seen from Earth.

Viewed from Earth, Mercury can never be seen to be more than about 28 degrees from the Sun, and Venus can never be seen to be more than about 46 degrees away. When Mercury and Venus appear at their maximum distance from the Sun in longitude, they are at their maximum or greatest elongation. While their maximum elongation is seldom if ever given in astrological ephemerides, astrologers might wish to take note of it, because it could be thought of as analogous to an opposition.

From the tables you will see that on November 3, Venus and Mercury reach their maximum elongations almost simultaneously -- Mercury at 15:06, and Venus at 15:46 UT. This year Mercury and Venus are in sync in other ways, too, traveling together in an extended partile conjunction in both January and June-July.

Current Mercury Cycles

Feb 14	10:51	25Aq51	**Superior conjunction**
Mar 12	13:42	10Ar19	**Maximum elongation**
Mar 20	0:16	14Ar06	**Mercury retrograde**
Mar 29	16:12	9Ar04	**Inferior conjunction**
Apr 12	7:47	1Ar45	**Mercury direct**
Apr 26	13:01	9Ar21	**Maximum elongation**
Jun 3	9:13	12Ge53	**Superior conjunction**
Jul 9	2:28	13Le15	**Maximum elongation**
Jul 23	3:02	20Le28	**Mercury retrograde**
Aug 5	23:37	13Le37	**Inferior conjunction**
Aug 16	3:52	8Le45	**Mercury direct**
Aug 24	1:08	12Le35	**Maximum elongation**
Sep 18	2:40	25Vi17	**Superior conjunction**
Nov 3	15:06	4Sg39	**Maximum elongation**
Nov 14	5:44	10Sg56	**Mercury retrograde**
Nov 24	15:44	2Sg28	**Inferior conjunction**
Dec 4	2:25	24Sc44	**Mercury direct**
Dec 12	16:25	29Sc47	**Maximum elongation**

Current Venus Cycles

Jun 8 04	8:44	17Ge53	**Inferior conjunction, Venus transits across Sun**
Jun 29 04	23:16	9Ge38	**Venus direct**
Aug 18 04	8:33	10Cn00	**Maximum elongation**
Mar 31 05	3:31	10Ar31	**Superior conjunction**
Nov 3 05	15:46	28Sg19	**Maximum elongation**
Dec 24 05	9:37	1Aq28	**Venus retrograde**
Jan 13 06	23:59	23Cp40	**Inferior conjunction**
Feb 3 06	9:19	16Cp01	**Venus direct**

The Year's Major Aspects in Longitude

Below is a selective table of the year's major aspects. The most important of these are a Jupiter-Saturn square, a Saturn-Uranus sesquare, and a Saturn-Pluto sesquare. Believing that even the so-called minor aspects are important when they happen between the slowest-moving planets, we also discuss the ten-year series of Neptune-Pluto septiles that has been going on since 2001. We highlight all these aspects in the table below, and will discuss them in more detail, putting them into a larger historical context.

There are other Jupiter aspects that we include in our table of major aspects but do not discuss. During 2005 Jupiter makes two trines to Neptune, a sextile to Pluto, a sesquare and a trine to Uranus, and a semisquare to Pluto -- contributing some soft aspects to the year's mostly stressful outer-planet aspects.

We've also included the quincunxes and semisextiles from Saturn through Pluto. In 2005 there are no semisextiles, but Saturn makes a quincunx to Pluto in January and May, and a quincunx to Uranus in September.

Finally, as the main triggering influences, we include in this selective table conjunctions from Mars. Mars conjoins Pluto in January, Neptune in April, and Uranus in May.

The Major Aspects of 2005

Date	UT		Point 1	Point 2
Jan 20	01:38	**Saturn quincunx Pluto**	23°Cn23' R	23°Sg23' D
Jan 28	17:46	**Mars conjunct Pluto**	23°Sg38' D	23°Sg38' D
Feb 15	09:10	**Neptune septile Pluto**	15°Aq31' D	24°Sg05' D
Feb 17	20:00	**Saturn sesquare Uranus**	21°Cn20' R	06°Pi20' D
Mar 14	07:45	**Jupiter trine Neptune**	16°Li27' R	16°Aq27' D
Apr 13	13:11	**Mars conjunct Neptune**	17°Aq15' D	17°Aq15' D
May 15	11:52	**Mars conjunct Uranus**	10°Pi23' D	10°Pi23' D
May 23	22:45	**Saturn quincunx Pluto**	23°Cn43' D	23°Sg43' R
Jun 12	03:21	**Saturn sesquare Uranus**	25°Cn46' D	10°Pi46' D
Aug 17	19:35	**Jupiter trine Neptune**	15°Li57' D	15°Aq57' R
Sep 9	23:55	**Saturn sesquare Pluto**	06°Le50' D	21°Sg50' D
Sep 18	03:56	**Jupiter sextile Pluto**	21°Li53' D	21°Sg53' D
Sep 21	05:49	**Saturn quincunx Uranus**	08°Le00' D	08°Pi00' R
Sep 23	04:54	**Jupiter sesquare Uranus**	22°Li56' D	07°Pi56' R
Nov 27	11:56	**Jupiter trine Uranus**	06°Sc54' D	06°Pi54' D
Nov 30	17:41	**Neptune septile Pluto**	15°Aq09' D	23°Sg44' D
Dec 7	23:49	**Jupiter semisquare Pluto**	09°Sc00' D	24°Sg00' D
Dec 17	05:15	**Jupiter square Saturn**	10°Sc45' D	10°Le45' R

The Jupiter-Saturn Waxing Square

This is the only Jupiter aspect that we discuss in depth here because from ancient times the Jupiter-Saturn cycle has been considered one of the prime indicators of historical trends. On December 17 Jupiter squares Saturn.This is the first of three passes (the next two of which occur at 9Sc/Le15 on June 22, 2006 and at 23Sc/Le32 on October 25,. 2006).

The current Jupiter-Saturn cycle began on May 28, 2000, when Jupiter conjoined Saturn at 22Ta43. As Dane Rudhyar has pointed out, the conjunction of any two planets begins a new process or series of developments, one that, much like what is symbolized by the New Moon

phase, is often hidden or unconscious until later events bring it to light. This Jupiter-Saturn conjunction occurred during the 2000 presidential election campaign.

The first hard aspect after the conjunction was Jupiter semisquare Saturn. The semisquare comes at the first crisis point in the cycle. The Jupiter-Saturn semisquare occurred on October 13, 2002 and then on March 27 and July 9, 2003, bracketing the official stage of the war in Iraq.

The upcoming square marks another crisis point, when trends started at the conjunction should again be put to the test. As we said above, this waxing Jupiter-Saturn square occurs from December, 2005 through October, 2006.

Writing about transits to a person's natal chart, Robert Hand say that "crisis does not mean disaster, and this can actually be an extremely productive time. The process that began at the last conjunction now undergoes a period of testing to determine its weak points and to find out if the course of events should be continued. If you learn that the process is improper for you . . . events will occur or changes will take place that make it impossible . . . to continue along this path*"* *(Planets in Transit,* pp. 16-17.) If you are obtuse enough to miss the point of the crisis and you stay on a wrong path, you will feel the ill effects somewhat at the sesquare and certainly at the opposition. If, however, you make the proper course corrections at the square, you will reap the reward of your efforts at the opposition, when everything comes out into the light.

On the political and cultural level, Charles Harvey relates the Jupiter-Saturn cycle to "the creation of philosophical, religious and moral codes, laws and long-term social structures." He equates Jupiter with either a nation's self-esteem, optimism and healthy expansion, or its arrogance and "'holier-than-thou' desire to 'play god' with allies or neighbours." Saturn, on the other hand, "is the 'reality' principle. . . . It gives the desire for national security, stability, and long-term structures. Negatively it can relate to ingrained defence mechanisms, habit patterns which no longer serve any useful purpose, phobias and fears which may subtly dominate certain aspects of national life." (In Michael Baigent, Nicholas Campion and Charles Harvey, *Mundane Astrology,* 2nd ed. 1992, p. 156.)

The Continuing Saturn-Uranus Sesquare

2005 also witnesses the second and final passes of the Saturn-Uranus sesquare that first became exact on August 7, 2004 at 20Cn36-5Pi36. The second pass, with Saturn retrograde, occurs on February 17, 2005, and the final, direct, pass occurs on June 12.

This sesquare is a crisis phase in the Saturn-Uranus cycle that began with the conjunctions of Feb 13, June 26 and October 18, 1988. The first crisis aspect in this cycle was the waxing semisquare of May and September, 1994 and February, 1995. The second crisis aspect was the waxing square of July and November, 1999 and May, 2000.

The 2004-05 Saturn-Uranus sesquare is the final crisis aspect before the opposition in that takes place in 2008-10. If the waxing square is like a plant's "final pushing through the earth out into the upper air" (in Charles Harvey's words), and the waxing trine "marks the rapid growth of the main plant through to its flowering," the sesquare that follows is like the initial setting of the fruit. Like the semisquare and square, it poses another test in the growth process. The way in which this test is met determines the quality of the ripe fruit that is harvested at the opposition.

Asserting that the US is strongly associated with the Saturn-Uranus cycle, Harvey points out that the 1965-66 Saturn-Uranus opposition (which coincided with Uranus conjunct Pluto) came at the

time of the rapid escalation of the Vietnam war following the August, 1964 Tonkin Gulf incident. (*Mundane Astrology*, p. 162.)

The Initial Saturn-Pluto Sesquare

On September 9 comes the first of three passes of Saturn sesquare Pluto. The second takes place on January 1, 2006 and the last on June 30, 2006.

This sesquare is the first hard aspect after the Saturn-Pluto opposition of August 5 and November 2, 2001 and May 26, 2002 -- the two 2001 passes of which bracketed the 9/11 destruction of the World Trade Center. As you may recall, the earlier World Trade Center bombing on February 26, 1993 occurred only six days before the March 3 Saturn-Pluto square that year. Coming at the opposition, the 9/11 tragedy would seem to be the fruit of a seed that was planted many years before, at the Saturn-Pluto conjunction of 1982-83 -- the first shoots of which saw the light at the 1993 square. One might well expect another chapter in this drama to unfold (for good or for ill) during the sesquares of 2005-06.

In *Mundane Astrology,* Charles Harvey suggests that the Saturn-Pluto cycle has to do with emerging nations and "deep cultural transformations, purgations and 'resurrections'." He connects the "intensely tough, purgative qualities of Saturn-Pluto" with "periods in which there is a need to 'get back to basics'," and in which there is a need for "seeing things in black and white, so that only some kind of drastic action will suffice." (pp. 183-84.)

He points out that it was only days after the August 11, 1947 Saturn-Pluto conjunction that India and Pakistan gained their independence. Just afterward there was appalling bloodshed and violence. A year later, in 1948, Israel declared itself a nation, an act followed by the outbreak of war with her Arab neighbors. The Israel-Lebanon war came at the next Saturn-Pluto conjunction, in 1982-83.

A look at later chronology suggests related themes, many of which reverberate today. Besides the earlier World Trade Center bombing, the 1993 Saturn-Pluto square coincided with bombing violence in India, a peace accord following the Russian invasion of Afghanistan, the siege against the Branch Davidian sect in Waco, TX, the foiling of a plot by Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman to blow up the UN, a bombing by Basque separatists in Madrid, Israel's building of a fence around the Occupied Territories, US missiles killing 6 in the Iraqi intelligence headquarters, and Israel's heaviest bombardment of south Lebanon since 1985. In the same year, Germany banned gay marriages, President Clinton issued a warning to North Korea about developing nuclear weapons, and white rule ended in South Africa, an event followed in March, 1994 by bloody fighting in Johannesburg between Zulu and ANC factions.

Then, among other events at the sesquare in 1997-98, Saddam Hussein first expelled 6 US weapons inspectors, later announced a war against US sanctions, and in the end finally agreed to weapons inspections.

The Continuing Neptune-Pluto Septile

In an earlier AUGuries article about Pluto in Sagittarius we treated the current decades as the tail end of the Neptune-Pluto "long sextile" that lasted through much of the 20th century. However, there has not been an *exact* Neptune-Pluto sextile since 1986. When a sextile (60°)moves out of orb, it becomes a septile (51°25'43"). Using *Solar Fire* to search for minor Neptune-Pluto aspects reveals that we are currently in the middle of a 10-year series of exact Neptune-Pluto septiles.

During a Neptune-Pluto septile series there are two exact septiles each year. In 2005 these occur on February 15 and November 30. This series of exact septiles began on December 25, 2001 and continues until the last septile on February 7, 2011, which means that 2005 comes just before the 2006 series' midpoint.

Typically, Neptune-Pluto septile series alternate with series of waxing Neptune-Pluto *sextiles*. There was a 3-year series of exact septiles from December 16, 1937 to September 20, 1940. Then came the 36-year series of exact Neptune-Pluto sextiles from January 22, 1950 to June 8, 1986. After the current 10-year 2001-2011 septile series comes a closing 6-year series of exact sextiles from July 25, 2026 to February 29, 2032. After that, there are no more Neptune-Pluto sextiles or septiles until 2337.

A similar pattern occurred during the Renaissance. There was a 4-year septile series from 1445-49, a 23-year sextile series from 1460-83, a 29-year septile series from 1496-1525, and finally a closing 4-year sextile series from 1536-40.

The septile phase in 1496-1525 marked the shift around 1500 from Early Renaissance to High Renaissance art styles, and, around 1519, a trend toward Mannerism -- a style that replaced the classical balance of the earlier Renaissance with elongated figures, strained gestures, and intense, often strident, color. On the religious front, it began with the deaths of Savonarola and Torquemada in 1498, and encompassed the height of Martin Luther's career of religious reform (he posted his 95 Theses in 1517). It also coincided with the establishment of Shi'ite Islam as the state religion of Persia in 1512.

The septile is so-named because it is 1/7th of the 360-degree circle. In his book *Harmonics in Astrology* John Addey says that the 7th harmonic (septiles and their multiples, the bi- tri- and tri-septile) "has more than a touch of association with Neptune." (P. 254.) He connects the 7th harmonic with sacred matters, creativity and inspiration. He continues, "Inspiration is, by definition, something which is breathed into the life from without (or from 'above' if one prefers that term), thus apparently giving to the limited human powers and faculties an added dimension." (P. 116.) Noting an age-old connection of the number 7 with sacred and religious matters, he cites a study of 1,974 clergymen's charts that showed a higher than normal distribution of the Sun around the zodiac in a 7- or 14-point star pattern. (*Harmonics in Astrology: An Introductory Textbook to the New Understanding of an Old Science*. Green Bay, WI, 1976, p. 63.)

In discussing political events, Charles Harvey elaborates further on the meaning of the septile: The number 7 is "traditionally associated with religious and mystical experience, and with sacrifice to some higher ideal. As such it is likely to indicate that stage in a cycle when something of the larger meaning and guiding vision of the basic cycle becomes apparent. As a consequence there often seems to be something more obviously 'fated' about the events and circumstances of this phase." He then goes on to discuss the Neptune-Pluto septiles in 1937-40: "This period saw both positive and negative collective 'inspiration' as the world was precipitated into an ideological struggle to the death. This period coincides exactly with Hitler's fateful decision to plunge into war. . . . In terms of science and technology, atomic research entered a key phase of breakthroughs during 1940/41." He also points out the invention of polyethylene in 1939, the development of penicillin in 1940, and PanAm's 1939 inauguration of the first regular transatlantic flights. (Michael Baigent, Nicholas Campion and Charles Harvey, *Mundane Astrology*, 2nd ed. 1992, p. 158.)

So how can we expect the Neptune-Pluto septile to play out in 2005? The best way is to watch current events when this aspect is most active. Currently the Neptune-Pluto septile stays within a 1-degree orb at the beginnings and ends of the year: this time, from October, 2004 through March, 2005, and from October, 2005 through March, 2006.

In February and March, 2005, the Neptune-Pluto septile is likely to become activated by a number of conjunctions and 7th-harmonic aspects. The exact septile on February 15 is triggered by Venus conjunct Neptune only 8 hours before. Then in March, while the septile is still within a 1-degree orb, it is reinforced by a station of Saturn triseptile both Neptune and Pluto. This is triggered by Mercury on March 9-10; and by the Sun, Venus and Mercury on March 27-31. Then, on April 12, Mars triseptiles Saturn midway between septiling Pluto on April 11 and conjoining Neptune on April 13.

The Continuing Neptune Semisquare to the Aries Axis

Before closing, we should also note that Neptune is spending much of the year within orb of a hard aspect to the 0 Aries axis. It made exact semisquares to 0 Aries on April 9 and June 25, 2004, and will make additional exact semisquares on February 1, September 30, and November 21, 2005 before moving off the Aries point in 2006.

This is the only outer planet that is currently in hard aspect to the Aries axis. It is significant because, being so slow-moving, it creates the basic setup for many of the midpoint combinations and planetary pictures that will occur on the Aries axis through the end of 2005. As noted in several other issues of AUGuries, the Aries point signifies general conditions in the world. According to the Witte-Lefeldt *Rules for Planetary Pictures*, the more neutral meaning of Neptune-Aries is daydreaming, but its other meanings include disappointments and "general poisoning."

Transiting Outer-Planet Midpoints

It's easy to overlook transiting midpoints, but the midpoints of the outer planets stay in one place for extended periods and can have long-lasting and important effects.The effect is magnified when a midpoint goes stationary. Here are the 2005 stations and yearly range of motion of the midpoints formed between Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune and Pluto.

Range of Outer-Planet Midpoint Motion, 2005

Mid-point	Longitude Jan 1 05	Station 1	Station2	Longitude Jan 1 06
Ju/Sa	06Vi07 Direct	06°Vi08' SR Jan 6	01°Vi13' SD May 8	26Vi37 Direct
Ju/Ur	25Sg36 Direct	27°Sg24' SR Feb 20	24°Sg49' SD Jun 1	10Cp31 Direct
Ju/Ne	15Sg34 Direct	17°Sg03' SR Feb 13	13°Sg13' SD Jun 8	29Sg38 Direct
Ju/Pl	20Sc00 Direct	21°Sc22' SR Feb 9	16°Sc07' SD Jun 14	04Sg06 Direct
Ju/No	22Cn48 Direct	22°Cn58' SR Jan 15	14°Cn17' SD Jun 23	26Cp09 Direct
Sa/Ur	14Ta25 Retrograde	13°Ta50' SD Feb 16	24°Ta06' SR Nov 27	23Ta49 Retrograde
Sa/Ne	04Ta23 Retrograde	03°Ta24' SD Mar 2	13°Ta12' SR Dec 3	12Ta57 Retrograde
Sa/Pl	08Li50 Retrograde	07°Li27' SD Mar 19	17°Li33' SR Dec 12	17Li24 Retrograde
Sa/No	11Ge38 Retrograde	06°Ge51' SD Apr 21	11°Ge35' SR Oct 23	09Ge28 Retrograde
Ur/Ne	23Aq53 Direct	29°Aq08' SR Jun 4	25°Aq52' SD Nov 7	26Aq51 Direct
Ur/Pl	28Cp19 Direct	02°Aq09' SR May 17	29°Cp47' SD Oct 17	01Aq18 Direct
Ur/No	01Ar07 Retrograde	01°Ar02' SD Jan 28	01°Ar07' SR Mar 24	23Pi21 Retrograde
Ne/Pl	18Cp17 Direct	20°Cp52' SR Apr 23	18°Cp31' SD Sep 29	20Cp26 Direct
Ne/No	21Pi05 Retrograde	No stations		12Pi29 Retrograde
Pl/No	25Aq31 Retrograde	No stations		16Aq57 Retrograde

Aspects to the very slow-moving midpoints can have important effects. The table below shows the conjunctions, squares, oppositions, semisquares and sesquares formed between the outer planets and the midpoints of outer planets. On the 90-degree dial these would appear as one planet at the midpoint of two others. Also shown here are the aspects between midpoints. On the dial you would see these as a symmetrical grouping of four planets around a common axis -- in other words, a "planetary picture." You can find keywords for for interpreting 3- and 4-planet combinations in Reinhold Ebertin, *The Combination of Stellar Influences,* and Alfred Witte and Hermann Lefeldt*, Rules for Planetary-Pictures.*

Outer-Planet Midpoint Aspects, Month by Month 2005

Date when Exact	Time (UT)	Point 1 Position	Point 2 Position	Point 1	Asp-ect	Point 2
Jan 11	17:47	14°Aq13' D	14°Ta13' R	**Nep**	Sqr	**Sat/Ura**
Feb 3	20:43	05°Pi33' D	05°Vi33' R	**Ura**	Opp	**Jup/Sat**
Feb 18	04:49	04°Vi53' R	19°Cp53' D	**Jup/Sat**	Sqq	**Nep/Plu**
Mar 13	22:47	20°Cn27' R	20°Cp27' D	**Sat**	Opp	**Nep/Plu**
Mar 19	07:32	16°Sg15' R	01°Aq15' D	**Jup/Nep**	SSq	**Ura/Plu**
Apr 10	02:25	13°Li09' R	28°Aq09' D	**Jup**	Sqq	**Ura/Nep**
Apr 13	02:59	20°Cn50' D	20°Cp50' D	**Sat**	Opp	**Nep/Plu**
Apr 30	12:10	17°Aq30' D	17°Sc30' R	**Nep**	Sqr	**Jup/Plu**
May 16	08:04	16°Sc43' R	16°Ta43' D	**Jup/Plu**	Opp	**Sat/Ura**
May 30	17:14	08°Li59' R	08°Li59' D	**Jup**	Cnj	**Sat/Plu**
May 31	07:03	17°Aq34' R	17°Ta34' D	**Nep**	Sqr	**Sat/Ura**
Jul 2	22:22	22°Sg42' R	07°Ta42' D	**Plu**	Sqq	**Sat/Nep**
Jul 6	05:18	28°Cn41' D	13°Sg41' D	**Sat**	Sqq	**Jup/Nep**
Jul 8	18:21	04°Vi46' D	19°Cp46' R	**Jup/Sat**	Sqq	**Nep/Plu**
Jul 13	20:18	11°Li03' D	11°Li03' D	**Jup**	Cnj	**Sat/Plu**
Jul 15	20:34	16°Aq50' R	16°Sc50' D	**Nep**	Sqr	**Jup/Plu**
Jul 25	14:08	01°Le10' D	01°Aq10' R	**Sat**	Opp	**Ura/Plu**
Jul 31	05:33	13°Li12' D	28°Aq12' R	**Jup**	Sqq	**Ura/Nep**
Aug 13	20:33	12°Li47' D	27°Aq47' R	**Sat/Plu**	Sqq	**Ura/Nep**
Aug 14	00:52	09°Pi29' R	09°Vi29' D	**Ura**	Opp	**Jup/Sat**
Aug 14	05:04	15°Sg42' D	00°Aq42' R	**Jup/Nep**	SSq	**Ura/Plu**
Sep 1	23:45	18°Li42' D	18°Cp42' R	**Jup**	Sqr	**Nep/Plu**
Sep 19	10:08	14°Vi59' D	29°Cp59' R	**Jup/Sat**	Sqq	**Ura/Plu**
Sep 20	04:22	15°Aq10' R	00°Cp10' D	**Nep**	SSq	**Jup/Ura**
Sep 30	17:10	23°Sc16' D	23°Ta16' D	**Jup/Plu**	Opp	**Sat/Ura**
Oct 23	07:52	25°Sc57' D	25°Aq57' R	**Jup/Plu**	Sqr	**Ura/Nep**
Oct 25	04:21	29°Li48' D	29°Cp48' D	**Jup**	Sqr	**Ura/Plu**
Oct 28	03:59	22°Sg38' D	22°Sg38' D	**Plu**	Cnj	**Jup/Nep**
Nov 20	06:59	23°Sg21' D	23°Vi21' D	**Plu**	Sqr	**Jup/Sat**
Nov 29	20:15	11°Le15' R	26°Sg15' D	**Sat**	Sqq	**Jup/Nep**
Dec 17	05:15	10°Sc45' D	25°Vi45' D	**Jup**	SSq	**Jup/Sat**
Dec 17	05:15	10°Le45' R	25°Vi45' D	**Sat**	SSq	**Jup/Sat**
Dec 17	05:15	09°Cp00' D	24°Ta00' R	**Jup/Ura**	Sqq	**Sat/Ura**
Dec 17	05:15	28°Sg08' D	13°Ta08' R	**Jup/Nep**	Sqq	**Sat/Nep**
Dec 17	05:15	02°Sg33' D	17°Li33' R	**Jup/Plu**	SSq	**Sat/Plu**
Dec 30	00:59	12°Sc59' D	12°Ta59' R	**Jup**	Opp	**Sat/Nep**

Major Declination Events

Parallels

During 2005 the only outer-planet (Jupiter through Pluto) declination aspect is Jupiter parallel Uranus on October 14 at 09 South 35.

However, Neptune and Pluto begin 2005 less than 2 degrees apart in declination, and in the course of the year they gradually converge toward the exact parallel that occurs on January 28, 2006 at 15 South 54. They were last in parallel in 1917-18, and in contraparallel in 1967-68 -- both obvious turning points in history.

During 2005 the major stimulation to this near Neptune-Pluto parallel comes from Mars. On April 19-22 Mars parallels Neptune and Pluto. Then, for the whole period from September 11 to November 11, Mars stations contraparallel between Neptune and Pluto. Changing direction again at the end of November, Mars contraparallels these two planets once more on December 22-27. (The next Mars declination aspect to Neptune-Pluto is not until mid-November 2006, when Mars is again parallel these two planets.)

Also, in mid-April Mercury stations at zero declination, and in in late September Mercury and Saturn are parallel while both are at zero declination. In the first week of December, Mercury again stations in declination exactly parallel Pluto and closely parallel Neptune, further stimulating the near parallel between Neptune and Pluto.

Extreme and Zero Declinations

Many astrologers who use declinations take note when a planet goes Out of Bounds -- that is, beyond the Sun's maximum declination of 23°26' north or south. During 2005:

- *Mars* is slightly Out of Bounds south for most of February.

- *Venus*, coming down from her 8-year declination maximum in 2004, is OOB north from late May through mid-June, and OOB south from the second week of October until early December.

- *Mercury* is slightly OOB South in mid-January and the first half of November.

Almost at the Lunar Standstill

The major declination news during 2005 is that this is the year before a major standstill -- the point in the Moon's 18.6-year nodal cycle when the North Node reaches 0 Aries and the Moon reaches its maximum possible north and south declinations each month. If you're a Moon-watcher, you may have noticed its wild gyrations of late -- the way it seems to be unusually far south in the sky during one part of the month, and then unusually far north two weeks later. Since mid-2001, the Moon has been going Out-of-Bounds -- beyond 23°26', the maximum declination of the Sun -- twice each month. It will reach its maximum possible declinations (28 South 44 and 28 North 43) in April and September of 2006, and will continue to go Out-of-Bounds each month until April, 2011. While 2005 is not the absolute peak of the cycle, it is

extremely close. On September 25, 2005, the Moon reaches 28 North 36, and on October 9 it reaches 28 South 36 -- only 7 or 8 minutes short of the major standstill declinations.

For clues to the significance of the standstill cycle, let's look at recent occurrences. In each 18.6-year cycle there is a major standstill when the the Moon reaches a maximum declination of 28°44' north or south, and then, midway between, a minor standstill, when it reaches a monthly maximum of only 18°09' or 18°10'. Recent dates of minor and major standstills, and periods when the Moon goes out of bounds are as follows:

Minor Standstills (maximum monthly declinations reach 18°09' or 18°10')	**Major Standstills** (maximum monthly declinations reach 28°44')	**Out of Bounds Periods** (maximum monthly declinations exceed 23°26')
1922	1931-31	1927-37
1941	1950	1945-55
1959	1969	1964-74
1978	1987	1982-92
1997	2006	2001-11

Looking at the Out of Bounds periods, you can see that these are unusually active periods in history -- the Roaring Twenties lurching into the Great Depression; the post WWII boom, the cultural ferment of the late 60s and early 70s, and the Information Technology revolution in the 80s and early 90s.

Having the Moon reach very high declinations takes on particular significance around the summer and winter solstices. Those are the times every year when the New and Full Moons occur at their most extreme declinations. In years near a major standstill, this effect is especially pronounced.

The December, 2004, New and Full Moons are a case in point. The New Moon occurred on December 11, three days before the Moon's maximum south declination. The Full Moon occurred on December 26 at 15:06 UT, less than an hour after the Moon's maximum declination at 27North54. That was the day of the Indian Ocean earthquake and tidal wave.

On January 10, 2005, there is another New Moon, at 12:03 UT. Rather than happening on the same day, this comes 25 hours after maximum south declination at 27 South 56. However, this time the lunation is reinforced by occurring only 8 days after the Earth's January 2 perihelion (the Earth's yearly closest passage to the Sun) and -- even more significantly -- 2 hours after the Moon's perigee (the Moon's monthly closest passage to the Earth). In other words, both the Sun and the Moon are exerting a greater than average gravitational force on the Earth, something that always makes high tides higher and low tides lower at that time of the month. The increased gravitational force is also exerted on the Earth's crust. Whether it results in another earthquake or eruption will depend on the state of the tectonic plates at the time -- whether slippage has built up enough pressure to create a setup waiting to be triggered.

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