

ASTROLOGY WITHOUT TEARS - Uranus, Planet of Change

Uranus was discovered in 1781, and was originally named after its discoverer, astronomer William Herschel. It was then decided to name the new planet Uranus after the father of Saturn, as it is a planet outside Saturn's orbit.

Uranus (Ouranos) was the Greek God of the sky, and with Gaia, fathered many children, among them the Titans, Cyclopes and the Hecatonchires (one-hundred-eyed giants). Uranus regarded his offspring with horror, and had them imprisoned deep within the Earth. Cronos (Saturn) was the only one of the children who volunteered to help his mother - he punished Uranus by castrating him and casting his genitals into the ocean, causing the water to froth - from this frothing water the Goddess Aphrodite was born.

In his book 'Prometheus The Awakener', Richard Tarnas suggests that a better name for Uranus would have been Prometheus, as this God has a striking resemblance to the energy of this planet.

Prometheus is the rebel God who fashioned 'humans' out of clay. He wanted to give life to these humans, so stole fire from Zeus. At a banquet for the Gods, he brought his little humans along, and they ate all the food that was meant for the Gods. Well, Zeus was furious, and punished Prometheus by chaining him to a rock - every day an eagle would peck out his liver, and every night it would heal, only for it to happen all over again the next day. He was eventually saved by Chiron, who had a painful injury of his own - he traded his immortality so Zeus would let Prometheus go. But more about that myth in another article...

Uranus is the planet of sudden disruption and rebellion, the innovator who breaks out of old patterns of behaviour. It is ruled by Aquarius, which is forward-thinking, unconventional and eccentric. Doesn't sound like our friend the God Uranus, does it?

Astrologers study the events that occur around the discovery of a planet in order to determine how the energy of a planet affects us. 1781 was a time of sudden changes and upheavals. The French Revolution is a perfect example of Uranian energy, destroying the old class systems and rebuilding an entire society.

I know what you're thinking - 'So how does this affect me, and my life?' Your natal chart is the map of your life - where Uranus is placed in your horoscope will indicate where you rebel, and where you experience the most upheavals in your life. If you haven't had your natal chart drawn up professionally (and I recommend you do!), there are many internet sites that you can use, though their delineations are quite generalised (computers aren't that good at astrology!).

A person with Uranus in Aries would have upheavals regarding their independence. The universe may frequently test their assertiveness and leadership skills in various situations.

In Taurus, the person would have upheavals regarding their finances and material stability. They may make a lot of money, then lose it again in sudden reversals of fortune.

Uranus in Gemini is an indication of intellectual genius - this person would have unconventional thoughts, and sudden ideas. Communication skills may be a little erratic and scattered.

Cancer is the sign placement of family upheavals - the person may have grown up with an unconventional family structure, and would like to break away from emotional bonds.

A person with Uranus in Leo may have big, flashy visions for the future. They would be flamboyant in their non-conformity, and shatter structures dramatically.

Virgo rules health and the body, so this placement may indicate sudden illnesses, or constantly changing your job. Upheavals should be dealt with by analysing and problem solving (note - analysing, not worrying!).

Uranus in Libra can indicate marriage / partnerships starting or ending suddenly, and unconventional relationships.

Scorpio can have a dramatic, transformative effect on the person - either that, or upheavals are quite violent and intense.

Uranus in Sagittarius would indicate the person has innovative ideas about life philosophies, and would use wisdom to shatter existing structures.

Capricorn is the sign ruling ambition and career, so Uranus in this sign may indicate a roller-coaster ride in this area of life. The person may experience sudden ups and downs regarding their social standing in the community.

Aquarius is ruled by Uranus, but the two together may be quite over-the-top! This is the rebel fighting for the underdog in society, the eccentric non-conformist who enjoys change and shaking up the establishment.

Uranus in Pisces would express its unconventional aspect through creativity and compassion. Unusual spiritual beliefs are also indicated by this placement. On the negative side, watch for erratic, victimised behaviour.

The above would also be flavoured by the natal house placement of Uranus. Also, Uranus' placement in the sky affects our natal charts - by transit, Uranus is currently in Pisces.

With Uranus, it's always good to remember that all upheavals happen for a reason, and it is through life challenges and change that we evolve as spiritual beings.



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