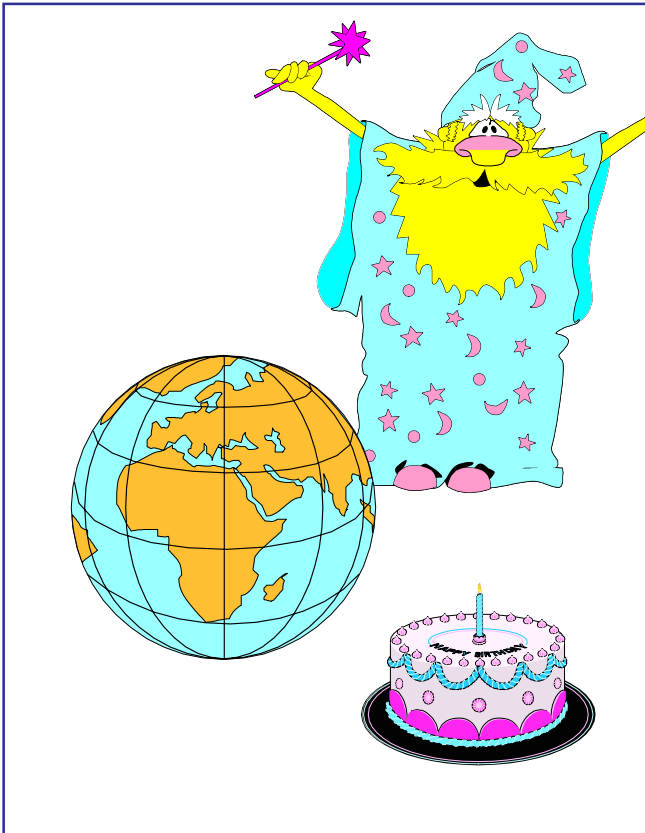


*Ciro Discepolo*

*A Few Facts on Aired Birthdays*



*Blue Diamond Publisher*



*CIRO DISCEPOLO*

*A FEW FACTS ON AIMED BIRTHDAYS*

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## Preface

This book is a collection of some articles of mine, which have been published first mainly on the World Wide Web (Internet) and on my quarterly journal *Ricerca '90*. They introduce the most important subject to me in Astrology: the *Aimed Solar Return* – the so called “aimed birthday”.<sup>1</sup> At the end of the following chapter you find a portion of my general bibliography (about ten books) which is essential to study this topic in depth. In this book I only report my consideration about some of the most controversial aspects on this subject. As I wrote once, I don’t intend to make proselytes for there are already many. Still, I don’t even like anybody to say incorrect things on this topic. That’s why I determined to write down some remarks reflecting my own views. You can consider them a kind of thoughts spoken out in a loud voice, but you should not assume that I wish to “duel” with my opponents. On the contrary: to them I express my deep respect for their considering facts the opposite way than I do.

I don’t want to take such initiatives as referendums or medieval-styled crusades. But I cannot even let people say trash counting on my silent consent – while the only reason I keep silent is the sake of leading a quite life. In past occasions my excessive modesty has been misunderstood. Some people assumed that I was consenting to their twisting the truth on certain relevant aspects of the method explained in this book. Since then many things have changed – and they have changed a lot. About a dozen of years ago my life had a turning point. I was compelled to realize (not without suffering) that I could not – and I must not – ignore the substantially original work that I had been carrying out for so much time. I felt that it was my duty to accept that I had created an *astrological school* to all intents and purposes. Consequently I had to defend the assertions written in my books: both from the denigrators and from the many vultures that would have liked to make a banquet of them. Nowadays I don’t care much of those who stubbornly refuse the validity of the ASR’s (*Aimed Solar Returns* or *aimed birthdays*), for every new year scores of scholar astrologers come to my side. What really annoys me is those Pharisees who have always claimed that the direction of my studies is nonsense and then –

suddenly, abruptly, with neither repentance nor abjuration – they’ve just begun declaring that aiming a Solar Return is an obvious and evident fact; that they had always practised ASR’s since children, and even in their previous lives...

But as I wrote, I don’t really care about them, for any printed matter has got a specific stamp date on the first or on the last page of every single book. This way anybody will be able, even in a thousand years, to reconstruct the story of my *Active Astrology*: the story of decades of aversion and injuries that I received from an overwhelming majority of my colleagues; and the story of their sudden conversions on an unlikely way to Damascus...

I don’t want to demonstrate what stands before everybody’s eyes: I simply want to underline some aspects that I regard as substantial; such as explaining that it is a good piece of crap to hear people saying that you must remain 24 hours in a place in order to have the aimed birthday work.

This book does not address to the sceptics though; it is intended for those who are puzzled by this topic and wish to deepen their knowledge of it as far as to be able to decide whether it is worth to try it out and test it – or not. Since the perplexities I detect in my interlocutors are always the same, I decided to gather them in one book together with my answers, at the disposal of those who wish to be better informed, e.g. about the “principal” objection: that of *karma*.

As a completion of the theoretical part I have added a few practical examples, randomly selected from the immense database of my memories in this field. You will find some nice stories there as well a few incredibly winning stories where exceptional results have been obtained. You’ll also find unpleasant episodes of flawed ASR’s, as an evidence that such a technique really works – in the good and in the bad. Last, I would like to mention what I consider the most important truth of this method: in no case you would ever be asked to cut off your own fingers (in such event you would have all the right to call me crazy). In the overwhelming majority of cases, I simply suggest you to pamper yourselves with a wonderful travel!

### **Naples, the 18th of April, 2001**

I would like to express my deep appreciation to my friend Lorenzo Vancheri for the editing of this book and for the precious pieces of advice he always gives me whenever I publish a new book, for whose general revision I rely on him.

### **Translator’s Note**

<sup>1</sup> Actually an active, targeted Relocation of Solar Returns.

## Active Astrology

I discovered astrology at the age of 22, during my military service at the airport of Latina in 1970. I dipped into it immediately and with a great passion. I understood that the only way to learn astrology is not by studying dozens of books (which I actually did for many hours a day, yet). On the contrary, you have to practise it on the field; you have to meet hundreds of people and cast their natal charts; thus making mistakes and learning by mistakes. I don't think that there is any better way to learn astrology. Before meeting somebody I studied his/her chart for hours, dropping notes and wondering how he/she would look like; what would his/her character and cultural interests be, and so on. I eventually met the consulting person, whom in the great majority of cases I didn't know before, and my real study began after he/she had gone away. Then I reconsidered the whole trying to understand what I had mistaken, and why. Such training course was giving me good results and I noticed that, even if the path I was stepping into was boundless, every day I was advancing a little further. Astrology had become my great passion; it had an even stronger charm on me than informatics – the other nourishment of my soul. But there was one thing that I wasn't able to accept and I couldn't stand at all: often I met people who were to face very hard transits and evidently dramatic situations – and I could do nothing for them! To hide them the truth? This was against my principles: I didn't want to deceive them. To tell them the truth – well I had to, but how? How could I face then their disappointment, their fears? That was the most impelling knotty problem I had to solve if I wanted to keep being an astrologer. During those years I also undertook my first Jungian psychoanalysis and I used to read loads of books on psychology. Very soon I got fascinated by the concept of “constellating a symbol” or, as I named it later on: “exorcization of a symbol”. In psychology *to constellate* means *to activate*, i.e. to bring something to life. Once I happened to read with an extraordinary interest the preface that Gianfranco Tedeschi, a

Jungian psychoanalyst and a school founder in Italy, wrote to the Italian paperback edition of Jung's study on schizophrenia (*Psicologia della schizofrenia*, Newton Compton Italiana).

You'll read more about it a little further in this book; then you'll understand how this example can be considered the origin of a good portion of my practice of astrology, which consequently goes under the name of "exorcization of the symbol".

While I was greedily absorbing those readings I also studied the Solar Returns. From the very beginning I discovered that it was possible to change them, even in full, by simply *being somewhere else* on the day of your birthday. These two coincident discoveries lit a sparkle in me – the desire to follow a way, to try to make light, to check up on some possibilities. I had found a semi-hidden path and I was trying to light it up with a weak torch. That would be my future way. I would never leave it. I'm still trying to improve it every single day since then.

The *exorcization of symbols* and the *Aimed solar returns* are the foundation of my *Active Astrology*.

## **The exorcization of symbols**

I'm sure that the more watchful readers and followers of astrology cannot ignore this current situation. We, the authors, are aligned essentially on three almost incompatible positions that eventually determine one's personal way of understanding and making astrology. The first, yet not the most important school claims that astrology is an instrument of knowledge of the human psyche and it doesn't allow the least prediction. Those who think so argue that Saturn and Uranus have nothing to do with John Smith even if John Smith is being robbed of all his goods the very same moment when these two planets cross the threshold of his natal 2nd House. It's the same as implying that transits, Solar Returns and primary directions are good for nothing.

The second sort or "school" of astrology fully admits the power of



transits, to such an extent that it is considered useless to “apply yourself” because everything is already written in your natal chart; and no one can do anything against fate.

Finally, here comes the third school: those who think like me: i.e. that transits, Solar and Lunar Returns, and primary directions work faultlessly, but you have got the chance to *antagonize* these forces: i.e. to fight against them. Of course, all I wrote in my previous books – and above all in this one – has been borrowed partly from Tradition, partly from my master André Barbault’s teachings. It also derives partly from the results of astrological research, partly from my personal experience of almost thirty years of activity; and partly from the personal way I have arranged those pieces of information together, amalgamating them with some aspects of Jungian knowledge, which has been conducting me since the beginning of my studies. I am sure that we can and we must try to weaken the negative transits and to strengthen the positive ones with all the means at our disposal. We can do it mainly with our own knowledge; with the enlightenment, which is the highest form of emancipation at our disposal. Secondly, we can use the techniques that I have already described elsewhere and that I am about to complete here, in this synthetic work.

The main operation that I am going to describe is what I call the *exorcization of the symbol*, or if you prefer, the *ritualization of the symbol*.

“A miracle,” was the cry of a great part of my students after reading the Italian translation of *Schicksal als chance [Destiny as Choice]* by Thorwald Dethlefsen, published in Italy by Ed. Mediterranee. Still, much of what my German colleague wrote had been published previously in my books over the last two decades, with the exception of the part about reincarnation – something I don’t believe in at all.

Let’s start from the beginning, by recalling the example that I have already reported in one of my writings, first described by the analytical psychologist Gianfranco Tedeschi in his preface to the Italian edition of Jung’s study on schizophrenia (*Psicologia della*

*schizofrenia*, Ed. Newton Compton Italiana). In his preface, Dr. Tedeschi talks about a Jewish student of medicine in Rome, who had started to manifest symptoms of mental dissociation years before: he had begun to behave like a priest of ancient Jerusalem. Dr. Tedeschi told him that he himself was a Jew too, thus they could celebrate the holy rites together on condition that they strictly followed the rules: fasting first of all; purifying themselves; wearing the right dresses; spreading incense; reading the original scriptures, etc. They did so for many months until the young man abruptly said, “All this is interesting, but – what do the Jews do today?” From then on, having regained interest for actuality, the young man was dismissed from hospital to begin his psychoanalysis with Dr. Tedeschi – who tells the reader that the young man recovered completely and eventually graduated in medicine. The doctor had constellated the symbolism that was pressing from inside the patient: this way the problem had been “exorcized”.

Let us consider two further examples whose central characters are two female clients and good friends of mine. The first one is a university professor with a vast general culture and a good knowledge of psycho astrology. During a transit of Saturn over her natal Venus she was left by the man she loved. She felt such a devastating pain that in order to cope with it, in order to detain it somehow, she went into mourning and dressed in black for one whole year. To those who asked her the reason of such a choice she used to say, “I’ve lost my love.” She went on for one year, exactly the same time required for Saturn to pass beyond her natal Venus; then she went out of mourning – back to normal life.

The second case is another lady professor as cultured and intelligent as the former. As the transit of Saturn on her natal Venus approached, she asked me what she could do to avoid losing her love. Her partner lived in a distant town; they met on a regular basis, say once every fortnight. I advised her to meet as rarely as possible, even further: not to meet at all during the entire coming year. They did so. Thus Saturn “*was given*” what it required: sentimental mortification, subtraction of loving enthusiasm, temporarily death of sentiment and sex. Then Saturn passed over and everything turned back the way it used to be.

In both cases we can say that the given procedure was to make the “ghost” act; i.e. what in psychoanalysis we could well define the “technique of restraining the field”. In the case described by Dr. Tedeschi the principle of identification was employed too – a Jew was the student, and a Jew was the doctor. This procedure has been invented neither by me nor by Dr. Tedeschi or by Jung; it belongs to the rites of any religion; it can be applied very often with excellent results; and it can be compared to the principle of homeopathic medicine *similia similibus curantur* (the similar cures the similar).

Can we state that all the cases must be treated the same way? No. The above mentioned Thorwald Dethlefsen suggests to wear in black, to visit cemeteries, to meet grave people and so on, in order to cope with a transit of Saturn, say, on your natal Sun. But my personal experience and even the teachings of psychoanalysis don’t agree on it. In fact, in many cases one must employ a *prosthetic technique*: i.e. a technique of compensation. Let me explain. Let’s say that the one who copes with the mentioned transit of Saturn is a native Pisces whose Sun or Moon is afflicted by an aspect of Neptune. In this case we are before a psycho labile individual; an extremely fragile person; an emotional sponge who fully absorbs the atmosphere around him/her. It is not wise to advise such a person to read *Les Misérables* by Victor Hugo and/or to associate with sad people. On the contrary: we’ll ask him/her to meet healthy happy people and very equilibrated persons; to watch amusing films such as the American comedies; to read Wodehouse’s works all the time.

For we must never think that everything has to be read, interpreted and developed in one direction only. Some people react better to allopathic medicine than to homeopathic; similarly we should use the exorcization of the symbol with the strongest individuals and the compensatory technique with the weakest ones. Sometimes the two principles can be melted. In the case of the fragile and vulnerable lady born under the Sign of Pisces, we’d advise her to find help in certain medicines used in psychiatry while spending a few months in a deeper solitude.

The basic principle of the *exorcization of the symbol* is the notion of sacrifice: exactly the same concept that thousands of years ago made the Greek pastors select and sacrifice the best lamb of their herd in order to contain Zeus' wrath. The bottom line is that you have to pay your due in the same analogical direction of the symbol, and in an expectedly adequate extent in order to discharge the transit. So if you are a female and Uranus transits on your natal Mars in the 5th House, it wouldn't be sufficient to have a dentist fill your cavity – but it would be expectedly enough to undertake an operation and have your some-year-old uterine fibroma removed.

The main piece of advice that I feel like giving to anyone is to “anticipate” the transits; to “offer the sacrifice” when the transit is about to arrive.

Another extraordinary instrument of self-defence in the critical periods – or at least a good way to strengthen the well-promising periods – is to use the Solar Returns in an “aimed”<sup>1</sup> way. That is, to choose the most suitable astral situation to spend your birthday with: i.e. the best annual sky which the horoscope of your following year derives from. For many years I have been advising my clients to use this technique and I have tried it out myself several times – always obtaining excellent results.

I suggest considering the consulting client's general situation about one month before his/her birthday, i.e. when the previous year is coming to an end and the astrologer is adequately updated about the facts that characterized the astral map of his/her prior Return. On the other hand, one month before the birthday one has got time enough to organize even a very exotic journey.

My personal technique is to cast a dozen of Solar Returns maps ranging from Los Angeles to Tokyo scanning all over Europe. If none of them is suitable I explore some “extreme” territories such as Siberia, New Guinea or Easter Island. Farther in this book you'll find suggestions on the right way to proceed, based upon practical cases.

## Solar Returns

This is a topic my heart gets inflamed with, because of my significant and satisfactory experience in this field. Since 1970, i.e. my first year of studying astrology, I feel I am on the same spiritual wavelength with this technique. Such a “tuning” would not develop in a fideistic way, but on the base of my practical experience. Nowadays I wouldn’t be able to analyse anybody’s astral situation without considering at least three maps: the natal chart, the current Solar Return, and the SR map for the next year. Without the three maps the client’s situation would appear “blind” to me. In my opinion, understanding the meaning and functioning of a Solar Return allows you to penetrate the secrets of one year of somebody’s life; it makes you read the most important and sure events one is about to face during that 12-month period. My first master on Solar Returns was Alexander Volguine, whose fundamental work I asked and obtained to be translated into Italian by my publisher Armenia. Later on I abandoned Volguine’s method for the reasons I explained in my *Trattato pratico di Rivoluzioni solari*, Blue Diamond Publisher. I believe that only few and clearly defined elements of the Solar Return chart need be considered, avoiding to burden its analysis with winding correspondences and analogical mutual links. I do believe that the elements to be considered primarily are the following ones:

- 1) Where the cusp of the Ascendant of the Return map is within the Houses of the natal chart.**
- 2) Where the Sun of the Return map is within the Houses of the Return map.**
- 3) Where a stellium of the Return map is within the Houses of the Return map.**

Then, but only *after* the above listed elements, one should also consider the planets in the Houses of the Return map, and a little – but very little – of everything else. I believe that not following these rules may lead you to serious oversights. The Solar Return is based on the principle of cycles. In nature we find, as an example,

Circadian Rythms of about one day in which cockroaches sleep or are in activity; not to mention the almost monthly cycles of menstruation in women. Every year the Sun goes back exactly to the same natal position of a person's map and a new year begins for the native, carrying its own special features – the features marked by the native's Solar chart, which the astrologer casts for *that* moment and *that* place. According to some colleagues of mine, the Solar Return map should be cast for the native's birthplace, not for the one the native actually *is* in when the Return takes place. This is nonsense both from the theoretical and from the demonstrative point of view. You can read about that in my a.m. *Trattato*. In this chapter I would like to describe one only example that demonstrates the absurdity of my colleagues' view. Let us consider Mata Hari's astral situation. The well known Dutch spy was sentenced to death by the French Government during the WWI. I already exposed this case years ago asking my colleagues to comment on it: having received no remark at all I'm proposing it once again. The stunning spy-dancer-prostitute was born in Leeuwarden on the 7th of August 1876 at 1 p.m. We'll consider one episode of her life for its crystalline cleanness, whatever be the reconstruction that any of you can make of it. The astrologers claiming that Solar Returns are to be cast for the birthplace (instead of the actual place of station of that moment) shall commit themselves and cry aloud to persuade those who disagree. Let's see then. Before becoming a spion and a prostitute, Mata Hari, who was already an amazing dancer, had been married to an official, major MacLeod, who took her with him to Indonesia, precisely to Medan.

There in Medan destiny stroke her tremendously on the 27th of June 1899. A native servant poisoned her two sons. One of them, Norman, died after appalling sufferings. Hence we have got all the ideal conditions to make an accurate comparison. Mata Hari's date of birth is sure – all her horoscope confirms it; we know the precise date of the event we are talking about; and geographically speaking, Leeuwarden and Medan are very distant places.

So what do we observe in Mata Hari's Solar Return map of 1898-1899 drawn for her birthplace, Leeuwarden? Nothing, virtually

nothing that may foretell her tragedy – starting from the SR Ascendant in her natal 4th House, which is miles away from the peak events we are examining. Then we see an empty, insignificant 5th House.

Let us consider what her SR map of 1898-99 tells us if we draw it for Medan, i.e. the place where the family actually *was* at the moment of the murder. In what natal House do you think the Ascendant of SR is? Precisely: in her natal 8th House. Weren't it enough, we also find Uranus in the 5th House while Mars and Pluto, the two dispositors of the 5th House, are conjunct in the 12th House. If they tell you that they still doubt, they simply lie.

### **Aimed Solar Return**

I shaped this expression myself to indicate the possibility for whoever to go away on the day of his/her own anniversary in order to take advantage of a birthday astral situation better than the one they would experience if they remained on their own place of birth. In the January 1999 issue of the Italian magazine *Sirio* my colleague Grazia Bordoni published an anthology of declarations about the *Aimed solar returns*. At the end of the article my friend Grazia was sad to inform me that I had been the only one who expressed the confidence that Solar Return maps are to be cast for the place where you spend your birthday – not for your birthplace. Actually, this lent me a hand. In fact, when I began claiming it with conviction thirty-one years ago, I had to face the opposite, often fierce opinion of the overwhelming majority of my colleagues. They even derided me for this, harshly and openly criticizing my custom of suggesting Aimed Solar Returns to my clients. Later on, as my works were published in magazines and books, growing legions of readers embraced these studies, swelling the ranks of the persuaded followers of this technique; in order to do that, some of them even disobeyed precise orders of censorship of their own masters – my colleagues. Today an opinion poll would show that the “base”, even those belonging to schools other than mine, believes – in the great majority of cases – in Solar Returns and in Aimed Solar Returns. On the other hand a growing number of

Pharisees, who have repeatedly affirmed their own scepticism on this topic until the other day, has suddenly begun to assert that they have always been persuaded of the validity of ASR's; and that this matter is so evident that it is not even worth mentioning. This is the reason why I am particularly glad for the testimonials published on the a.m. issue of *Sirio*.

Why have I been the first one to embark on this kind of study with such a great fervour – at least compared to my colleagues? There are exactly two reasons. To study an Aimered Solar Return with all the pertinent charts and the calculation required to cast each of them, you must have adequate technical means at your disposal. In the early 1970s I already used tiny Hewlett-Packard pocket computers – the real programmable ancestors of Personal Computer. With the help of professionals on informatics, on such machines I elaborated programs that took full care of the long and laborious calculations necessary to SR's. Today's program *Molriv* of ASTRAL is one of those little jewels: it scans the entire terrestrial surface in a few minutes. The other reason that favoured me very much in the study of Aimered Solar Returns is that, differing from the times of Alexander Volguine, nowadays whoever wants to spend a birthday in New York City – now as well as twenty years ago – must not sell his/her own house away any longer, for you can afford it for less than 1,000,000 Italian Liras<sup>2</sup>.

I have been “sending” hundreds of people (more than 14,000 individuals as on January 2001) to spend their birthdays abroad every year for 31 years. The balance I have drawn up is astonishingly positive, as you can read in my book *Trattato pratico di Rivoluzioni solari*, Blue Diamond Publisher.

**An essential bibliography:**

- Ciro Discepolo, *Nuova guida all'astrologia*, Armenia, 817 pages
- Ciro Discepolo, *Guida ai transiti*, Armenia, 459 pages
- Ciro Discepolo, *Effemeridi e Tavole delle Case*, in different volumes, Armenia
- Ciro Discepolo, *Trattato pratico di Rivoluzioni solari*, Blue Diamond, 204 pages
- Ciro Discepolo, *Esercizi sulle Rivoluzioni solari mirate*, Blue Diamond, 96 pages
- Ciro Discepolo, *Nuovo dizionario di astrologia*, Armenia, 392 pages
- Ciro Discepolo, *Transiti e Rivoluzioni solari*, Armenia, 500 pages



- Ciro Discepolo, *Astrologia Attiva*, Edizioni Mediterranee, 144 pages
- Ciro Discepolo, *Il sale dell'astrologia*, Capone editore, 144 pages
- Ciro Discepolo & Luigi Galli, *Supporto tecnico alla pratica delle Rivoluzioni solari mirate*, Blue Diamond Publisher, 136 pages
- Luigi Galli & Ciro Discepolo, *Atlante geografico per le Rivoluzioni solari*, Blue Diamond Publisher, 136 pages

**Translator's Notes**

<sup>1</sup> One could also say, "targeted".

<sup>2</sup> Approx. 500 •



## Active Astrology: the balance of thirty years

January 2000 is a particularly important date for me, for three special anniversaries of mine come together. First of all we enter the Third Millennium – it's a prevailing collective fact, but also an event I am personally involved in. Second, my astrological quarterly journal *Ricerca '90* is ten years old. And third, I have been studying and making astrology for thirty years. I reflected about the latter fact last summer, when I happened to read, with great pleasure, *The Magic Mountain* by Thomas Mann. When Mann held a lecture at Princeton University, the American students questioned him about his masterpiece. He explained the relationship between the young man called Hans Castorp, the central character of the novel, and the mountain on the background of Berghof sanatorium. The mountain is the symbol of initiation. Recently also Pope John Paul II focused on the high value of the mountain as a metaphor of growth, ascension, collaboration among people, sacrifice to reach a goal. In his lecture of Princeton Thomas Mann said, talking about the *initiation stories*, "Their hero, whatever you call him – Gavain or Galahad or Percival – is in fact the *Quester*: the one who searches and questions; the one who travels along the sky and the hell; the one who faces the sky and the hell and comes to terms with the mystery, with illness, with evil, with death, with the other world, with the occult, with that world which is called "problematic" in *The Magic Mountain*... questing for the "Gaal", i.e. the supreme, the knowledge and the initiation, the philosopher's stone, the *aurum potabile*: that is, the drink of life." He also said: "The Gaal which, even if he never finds it, he perceives by intuition in his almost mortal dream before being dragged from his height in the European catastrophe; the Gaal is the idea of the man, the notion of a future mankind which went through the deepest knowledge of illness and death. The Gaal is a mystery, as well as humanity: for the human being itself is a mystery, and any humanity is founded upon the respect of human mystery."

One could say in other words that the mountain is the base of an effort to climb up the knowledge and the illness; in this case, Berghof sanatorium is the most appropriate manner to ensure success to the enterprise.

If we can create an analogy out from this speech, in my case I would say that my mountain had been Astrology, and my illness had been the endless affliction of those whom I attended in many decades of study. Through such a binomy, not without a personal sensitiveness towards all this, in my own small way I have quested too – if not for the Graal, at least I’ve quested for the grain of gold amidst tons of sand, as the great Michel Gauquelin used to say talking about astrology and statistical research.

It is not my duty to say whether I’ve found it out or not – future generations will establish a quite objective truth about that. What I can do is to draw up a personal balance of my thirty years of studies and research: now, with you, my readers.

While drawing up a balance the main risk is to write a kind of self-celebration emphasizing the progress of one’s path. I’ll try to avoid that, but I’ll also avoid to throw away the good things I think I have produced in many years of passionate study.

All the small or big failures that constellated the path of my research have been permanently carved in my mind and in my heart; the injuries they caused will bleed forever. They torture me lastingly but they also make me advance, trying harder and harder to correct myself in order to obtain, for every single input I send, a modified output that matches experience. Proud, self-esteem, but also the hostile testimonial of the damaged one – they all are my unavoidable tools, necessary to make better in the future. The main problem I had to face is that this topic was an absolutely novelty for me and for astrology itself. In its astral aspect, the principle of *exorcization of the symbol* was actually born with me. And the notion of *Aimed Solar Return* had never been put in practice massively even if it had already been mentioned in books published hundred of years ago. What I mean is that no one had been so brave as to suggesting thousands of people to be *elsewhere* for their birthday. There is

one fact that I must highlight. Some individuals have been emerging lately who claim that they have knowledge of two or three thousands Aimed Solar Returns. Such assertion looks like a pretentious blast of fireworks fading into nothing, or like the dithyrambic self-celebrations of Brancaleone da Norcia<sup>1</sup>. My most excellent followers, who study and work very hard, have analysed scores or hundreds of Aimed Solar Returns – on themselves and on other people. Ton the contrary, the above mentioned individuals have never published any single line on this subject. They have never dropped any single letter on this subject in specialised bulletins. They have never attended a congress or a lecture on this topic. Nobody knows them. They can only support their redundant lies with the testimony of a brother, a cousin or a few friends tied up to a kind of conspiracy of silence. They promote self-certifications of pretended knowledge that only newcomers can believe, who haven't followed the evolution of astrology in the last 50 years.

Back to us. With a topic like *Active Astrology*, where the only printed matter was the one I had written myself, I couldn't help making mistakes – from which I have learnt very much. Obviously those mistakes has caused me many sorrows. Where do you think I've learnt the ugly character of the 1st, 6th, and 12th House of Solar Return from, if not from the misfortunes happened to my clients and to myself? These burning wounds still hurt very much to me.

Nowadays, I dare say that my balance is substantially solid – I could not absolutely lie to you about that. Let me estimate: say that I send many hundreds of people every year – approximately 1,000 people every 12 month during the last years – to celebrate an aimed birthday. You could fittingly ask how I could survive – from a psychological point of view – the wave of protests, menaces and insults those people would cover me with, if I only sent them to slaughter. What if the majority of them experienced nightmarish years, or if they faced even *one only* major negative event during the subsequent 12 months?

I don't want you to believe that such incidents don't happen to me any longer. I don't want you to think that all the cases I follow

lead to the expected results. I simply say that the majority of my clients are so satisfied that they come back to me in the following years in order to repeat the procedure.

In such a research my goal is to find out the way to a better quality of life. I was born on the 17th of July – I must have something in common with Professor Di Bella<sup>2</sup>, who was born on the same day and month as me: maybe we share the same quest for alternative ways of helping people leave a slightly better life. I don't think I've found out the magic wand. I only like to believe that Active Astrology might be compared to the usage of antibiotics, of psychoanalysis – or even to wearing a scarf on winter in order to feel a little more comfortable. The heuristic path of man is a neverending way with endless ramifications. I adore this sentence of Socrates': "A life without research is not worth living."

Every day the path gets full of hindrances and can constantly lead you to disappointments, frustration, and suffering for the pain you unwillingly might cause to the others. You can have a really great amount of satisfaction though, which overwhelmingly goes past the negative stages. For example, some people disagree about my usage of the 10th House – which I celebrate very much – because having tried its effects on one or two personal cases, they deduce that it is a dangerous House, rather than useful. Had they experimented it hundred of times, they would have collected the enthusiastic gratefulness – among others – of: a journalist who becomes the editor in chief of an important daily paper; a novice writer who sells out several editions of his first book in a few months; people who get married at the age of 40; men who become fathers at the age of 50; people who stop suffering after decades of tortures; and I could list many more examples. In the huge database obtained by the tables of my experience, every single cell has got its own space, either negative or positive. When I draw up the balance sheet I cannot lie to myself. Apart from what I am telling to you and from what I wrote in my books, it is a matter of fact that I am a double Cancer and that I couldn't bear the daily psychological burden of legions of unsatisfied and protesting people. I believe that even a Lion or an indifferent Aquarius couldn't bear it.

Furthermore I can count on my followers' testimony. Thousands of astrologers developed their skills on my books; I am in daily touch with them. By phone or by mail I receive daily reports from many of them, who encourage me to go on, though not sparing their objection when it comes the time to criticize.

All this is entered and it settles down onto the hard disk of my memory to be searched for and extrapolated whenever there is the need by means of a *query*.

Let us go back to a more practical stage and try to understand, by themes, what are the fields where I've scored my best goals; and what are the fields where I met my most deceiving results instead.

Love. In this field I've collected strong results and disappointing effects almost in the same extent. The stars can help, but desperate cases can be solved only in Lourdes. In the majority of cases it is possible to promote reconciliation between partners who have been in love for long. But to help a mature woman find love, especially when she's already aging and she's got ugly positions in her natal chart with regards to love, well – that's another kettle of fish. Often one can produce real miracles and it's the native who doesn't grasp the opportunity because he/she isn't happy with the circumstances. I could list many, many persons whose marriage I have promoted after observing a very bad situation behind each of them: such as an everlasting role as a single at the age of 40 and the like. Some of them are so evidently satisfied with the results they obtain that they stop practicing the Aimed Solar Returns and then they split up – they consequently tend to judge their matrimonial experience as a globally negative time. I would like to underline that it's two completely different facts. When those people got married they did it with great happiness. Nonetheless I had repeatedly warned them that an Aimed Solar Return can be compared to taking vitamins: if you take them on a regular basis their effect extends indefinitely in time; but if you stop taking them, after a while their effect vanishes. Some people say to me: let's aim onto love, please. They obtain love and then they say: OK, now let's aim on career. Their things go well then in the latter field but get worse in the former, so they come back to me claiming,

let's aim onto love once again. It's always a question of choice. We must remember that when we play cards we usually can count on one only joker or two. One cannot favour health, career, love, children, and money – all of them at the same time! One should always make a prior choice. As the old saying goes, the tongue ever turns to the aching tooth: we always complain about what makes us suffer most in that instant, while we are ready to forget completely the cause of our complaint as soon as things improve a little – we seldom realize that it's there we have actually reached significant results though.

On the other hand, I must admit that I have collected a few failures in this field, although sensational ones: very unfortunate persons – very attractive women among them – to whom I was able to make a series of love affairs begin, but none of them ended up well. In this field as well in all the other fields the golden rule is: by means of *Active Astrology* we can help very much, but there are cases that cannot be solved at all – or almost at all.

Let us consider career, which is not to be mixed up with money. In this field I had certainly most of the satisfaction coming out from my practice of more than thirty years. You should not take for granted that your personal commitment and talent is directly proportional to the results you can achieve on the professional ground. Nonetheless the goals you can reach in this field can be surely more easily controlled – astrologically speaking – than the results obtained in the field of love. I just said that we must separate career from money, and I'll tell you why. Practising the Aimed Solar Returns I collected many positive results for those who asked me for help; however not always such results could be converted into money. For example, if a nationwide newspaper publishes a splendid review of one of his works, for an intellectual this doesn't necessarily turn into money, still it's something extremely gratifying at any rate. Into my personal records I have saved many cases of natives who experienced a drastic change in their life since they accepted to go away every year – or almost every year. I remember people who were eternal students at university and who eventually succeeded in graduating. Some others got a better job. Others became famous for their writings, or appearing on the television. I

could list many more examples. The *Active Astrology*, I said, is based mainly upon the concepts of *exorcization of symbols* and of *Aimed Solar Return*; but it also takes into consideration – into due consideration – the guidelines of *Astrogeography*: which tells us what are the cities of the world that can be more favourable to someone, especially from the professional point of view. Those who followed its tips in addition to the others, they accumulated higher scores and went even farther. I remember as an instance the case of a follower of mine from Savona, with whom I maintained a written correspondence. She was a graduated in psychology who studied astrology without any professional success. In addition to recommending the aimed birthdays, I suggested she could move and live in Madrid. She was as brave as to do it. She didn't know a soul there; nonetheless she went and took her permanent residence there. Fifteen years have passed since then; she soon turned into an appreciated astrologer who's been keeping a permanent show on the national radio channel.

“To aim” is the verb you must conjugate most frequently if you want to practice the *Active Astrology*. “To aim” means also – and above all – to understand in what direction goes a person's libido. When the consulting individual accepts even to change on his/her own job in order to live in better harmony with his/her own basic wishes, usually the results are more concrete. A man who obstinately tried – without succes – to be self-employed in different fields, could eventually find satisfaction and achievement by opening his own restaurant. Astrology is a great adviser in that; it allows us choose the right direction and time for every move – especially in the field of profession.

Things go completely different in the field of money. In this case we must distinguish two opposite situations. Chronic debtors with very bad positions regarding money in their natal charts; and those whom we might well define “normal” people from this point of view. For the former there are few therapies, and of no importance. For example, among those who ask me for consulting there are people who are in debts of tens or hundred of million Liras<sup>3</sup>, probably carried out with illegal means. They hope to redevelop their situation by a shake of magic wand. I remember the case of a



lady who had went into a debt of over 100 millions Liras<sup>4</sup> playing bingo – her great passion. In order to refund her creditors she was compelled to sell her nice house in an elegant borough of Rome. Then she got a terrible “raptus”<sup>5</sup>: she decided to play more money to try and buy her house back. The result was a disaster, because she lost her spared 6-7 hundred millions<sup>5</sup> and she went stony broke in a single year. She has never tried an aimed birthday; although perhaps, even with aimed birthdays I couldn’t have been able to prevent her from committing such a hara-kiri.

Usually the strongly and negatively affected (concerning money) persons always tend to loose – not to gain – money. In such cases something can be done, but only as far as prevention against a further haemorrhage of money. You can also help them redevelop slowly – very slowly – their own financial situation. Since my first years of studying the Aimed Returns I understood that the last thing you can do for them is to place a Jupiter into the 2nd House; for in the majority of cases the lord of Sagittarius causes the exactly opposite effect of what one could expect. Unfortunately I must acknowledge that some of my inattentive readers still have people travel around the world with the only purpose of catching it.

To “normal” people, and especially to those with a positive attitude towards money, things go very different. In such cases, if we manipulate their Solar charts well, we can visibly increase their income. As the saying goes, money call money – and we can get really nice satisfaction in this cases. Many people whom I attended have won at gambling: not outstanding amounts; still, they won remarkable and satisfactory sums of money.

Let us talk about health now. I must say, without going too far, that I have collected a lot of satisfactory cases in this field too – and only two cases can be defined really negative. I am still reconsidering one of the two, for I have serious doubts about the native’s time of birth. The other negative event is the case of a lady, the wife of a journalist who’s one of my dear friends and whose wife I also consider as a good friend of mine. It is actually the only one real regret that I have ever had in many years of practicing this method. She developed a breast tumour after an

ASR that had puzzled me a lot; nonetheless I thought I had solved it at my best. I have much left to study on this case and I'll certainly write more about it in future. For the time being, let me repeat that I have accumulated heaps of happy events in many years. By simply protecting the Houses directly involved with health, almost in the totality of cases I have always obtained a reversion of the existing pathologies. Of course I don't mean that I try to treat people, for I leave this task to the doctors. I simply help people by suggesting a birthday sky that be favourable also to the native's health. There's no Aimed Return that can help out the chronic and incurable cases: you can only suggest them to address themselves to the religious heaven – not to the astrological sky – for assistance and relief. In all the other cases, everybody can verify that it works.

Often a good Ascendant in the 10th or 5th House; a conjunction of Sun - Venus in the 5th House; a Jupiter at the Ascendant; they all may relieve and comfort very much a depressed individual, helping him or her find a better quality of life – together with the therapies suggested by the doctors.

You can easily understand that many sick people come to ask for my advice, among them HIV positive persons and people operated of cancer. I've never either promised them or made them believe that an aimed birthday can replace chemotherapy and other specific therapies. I've always told them that, alongside the correct, essential therapies of each specific case, using of the technique of Aimed Solar Returns can help very much. Evidently there's a guardian angel protecting me, because in about twenty cases that I've been following for years I haven't lost even a single soul: which encourages me to keep on in the same direction.

I would like to reach a conclusion by stating my presently main problem with the practice of the Aimed Solar Returns: the precision of the native's time of birth. In the majority of cases the problem doesn't even exist. In fact I do always my best to keep a safety margin, after or before the given time. I don't want an inaccurate time of birth to invalidate the good effects of an aimed birthday, or even worse: to transform it into a squel of quite negative events. As a practical example, I'll show you what most frequently causes

problems. Say that I decide to have someone travel to Dallas for his next birthday, where he'll get a Mars in his 5th House, at about 5 degrees from the cusp of the 6th House. Of course I keep in alert because I know very well that, if the native were born half an hour earlier, that Mars of him would almost certainly fall into the 6th House. This may cause a year of troubles of all kinds to him. So I decide to make a fine-tuning and I think about moving a little eastward, say towards Houston or New Orleans. This way I keep his Mars away from the 6th House and I get calmer. Had I had the need to move westward from there, I wouldn't have had any trouble at all because we are spanning through the United States of America, i.e. a vast territory almost entirely inhabited and easily accessible. Things get much more complicated if we think about aiming a birthday into the middle of the Pacific Ocean, such as Fiji or Vanuatu Island. In the immensity of an ocean where only a few spread island float with hundred of kilometres of water among them, one cannot easily travel a little further eastward or westward. In these cases, if I really need to be there in the Fiji I must let that Mars be at 5 degrees from the cusp of the 6th House. Things can go fine then, but they can also go wrong. My present attitude before such eventuality is to explain the situation to my client and suggest him/her to go and try, unless he/she's an elderly person. For it is a good thing to find out if you were born half an hour earlier at the age of forty – much better than discovering it when you're sixty and it might be fatal.

We must also consider that if we usually tend to be liberal in choosing the place to reach, we eventually don't aim much and we must satisfy with quite mediocre results. In any case, the results we obtain in this way cannot be compared to those we can obtain by hitting exactly the bull's eye, e.g. placing a Jupiter in perfect conjunction with the Medium Coeli – not at 6-7° from it.

In my opinion this is the main problem for those who want to deal seriously with Aimed Solar Returns. I've never said that it is an easy practice, though – even less have I ever said that it is a painless procedure, especially for the astrologer.

The millennial path of astrology has always been hard and difficult

– but it could enclose the alpha and the omega of Knowledge. I don't drive so far and I would be happy to be let think that I have found out its alpha at least.

**Translator's Notes**

<sup>1</sup> the leader of an inept group of Crusaders in Mario Monicelli's film *L'Armata Brancaleone*.

<sup>2</sup> Professor Luigi Di Bella, the physiologist who developed the so-called *Di Bella therapy*, an unorthodox cancer treatment which caused collective discussions in Italy during 1997 and 1998.

<sup>3</sup>hundred, or dozens of hundred Euros

<sup>4</sup> approx. 50,000 •

<sup>5</sup> three or four hundred Euros



## How do Solar Returns work?

Well, that's not easy to explain if we don't even know how and why astrology works. But we can try and make up a hypothesis. All life on Earth is ruled by cycles: a man, an animal, a plant, and up to certain extent even a mineral: all they were born, they all live for a certain time and then they all die. Birth, as well as death, is a distinctive mark; a label that imprints into the object or the organism itself: it expresses its qualities in a univocal manner referring to that space and that instant only.

Nonetheless not all the vital cycles on the Earth are univocal cycles characterized by the bisection Life-Death: there are also cycles that repeat continuously, forever or for a given period of time, with fixed periodicity. As an instance, not earlier than 50 years ago medical science discovered the enormous importance of the time at which you take medicines. The basic reason is, Man is subject to biorhythms. Let us consider the endogenous production of melatonin. We know that our organism produces it with an evident and meaningful peak starting about half an hour after sunset. This promotes sleep and it would have also, according to many doctors, an antidepressant action opposed to that of darkness. Now, doctors who usually prescribe three milligrams per day of synthetic melatonin, also suggest to take it half an hour before going to bed. Obviously if the patient took melatonin at awakening, not only it would not help – it would also be detrimental for his health.

Man is conditioned by several cycles or biorhythms or whatever you want to call them. First of all, we live on a circadian rhythm (of about one day): we have got a wake/sleep rhythm of 24 hours; and a cycle of diuresis and blood pressure that perfectly matches the time of rotation of the Earth on its own axis – just to mention a couple of them.

The rhythms or cycles that condition men and women are not aperiodical: i.e. they repeat in a precise, non-casual way; and the clock that adjusts them is nothing else than our solar system with its own motions. For us, who live here on Earth, time is ticked

mainly by the spinning motion of the Earth around its own axis; by the motion of the Moon around us; and by the motion of the Earth around the Sun, which repeats approx. every 365 days for a complete cycle.

There are other cycles whose connection with the human being has been demonstrated: e.g. the 11-year cycle of sunspots and the relevant cardiac pathologies. There are many other cycles, but – in this context – we would like to highlight the three a.m. “principal” ones.

We have already told of the circadian (1-day) cycle. The second one is strongly visible in nature: the Moon takes about 29 days to make a complete turn around the Earth, women have a menstrual cycle of about 29 days too.

But the most important cycle of all, the one that causes the heavier conditioning to the living creatures of the Earth, is undoubtedly the annual rhythm connected with the revolution of the Earth around the Sun. We can see very clear evidence of the importance of this cycle in nature: many animals always fall into lethargy and wake up from it at the same period of the year; other animals always migrate in the same period, and so they do for the season of coupling too; the trees always give fruits in the same month of the year; one could make an endless list of it...

On middle May, regardless if it rains and the air is chill or if the sun shines, at our latitudes the cherry trees give us the cherries: and this is a kind of birthday for the tree.

In the same way, also for human beings the day of the birthday is an extraordinary day when a cycle comes to an end and a new one begins. In my opinion this is the reason why the sky under which one starts this new cycle is so important.

I understand that this is only an attempt of an explanation; for there are more things that we don't know than those that we are able to explain. However, I think that such an empirical explanation gives you an idea of how the Solar Returns work – and consequently, of how the Lunar Returns work as well.

## **A few facts on Aimed Solar Returns**

Recently a female colleague of mine has expressed her strong dissent, in one of the astrological mailing lists of the Internet, about the practice of Aimed Solar Returns. She added that even if she had written so, she didn't wish to feed a flame like the one that had previously opposed – for quite a long period – two of my colleagues researchers on the Internet, Pasquale Foglia and Vincenzo Pacelli.

I am sure that she wasn't in danger of doing so. Actually, each of the above mentioned colleagues was trying to convince (rightfully and with great fervour) the other of the goodness of his own view about one specific topic: “The Periodic Table of the Zodiac”, while I have no interest in convincing anybody. Even if you paid me, I wouldn't make the barest effort to drive anybody to adopt the practice of ASR's. The reason is simple: through my books (some of them have sold more than 50,000 copies) thousands of “indirect and acquired” followers of mine have embraced, if one can say so, the mentioned teachings; and they have put them into practice every day with the scores of persons they get in contact with. As a consequence I'll never spend the least energy to try to convince those who are not convinced. You could ask: why are you writing the following remarks then? Because one thing is to try to convince the sceptics about something; but to elucidate facts that, in my opinion, have been interpreted in a twisted manner, it is another kettle of fish. So I take advantage of this occasion, which spurs me to shed light on some of the topics that, from my point of view, represent the so-called *pièce de résistance* of my opponents against Aimed Solar Returns.

**“The Aimed Solar Return is a mere bookish subject because one could never demonstrate what it would have happened**

**to John Smith if he hadn't moved, or to Mark Tweed if he had gone to spend his own birthday far away".**

This seems to be an unbeatable assertion, but it isn't. Let us see why. We all know that, in order to prove assertions, we make use of an inductive-deductive method (Galileo Galilei's one). Logic is the base of this inductive method. The character of Sherlock Holmes is the perfect illustration of the famous *motto*: "Observe, concatenate, deduce." In the field of science they use the so-called *follow-up*, which consists in tracing specific predictive analyses and check them out – afterwards – in order to verify whether they have become true or not. Now, in our case, the rules governing the readings of a Solar Return are already specified and written down; therefore their decipherment before and after an aimed birthday has nothing to do with the game of chance of the three cards<sup>1</sup> arranged in the streets of some village by occasional or professional swindlers in order to bamboozle people. In other words, I cannot understand why, being perfectly aware of the difference between a Mars in the 3rd House of SR and a Mars in the 4th House of SR, one could not establish – afterwards, one year later – whether that Mars behaved like in 3rd or in the 4th "manner". Certainly in this field no one could charge us with cheating, precisely because the rules are written previously: and if John Smith's father dies it's not the same as if John Smith is stolen the car.

There are also clamorous historical examples that support what I am saying: such as the extremely plain case of the murder of one of Mata Hari's sons (see [www.cirodiscepolo.it/altriarticoli.htm](http://www.cirodiscepolo.it/altriarticoli.htm) or *Nuovo dizionario di astrologia* by Ciro Discepolo, Ed. Armenia). You can also consider the very interesting case of the two "twins" – one left, one remained – described in my *Esercizi sulle RSM*, Blue Diamond Ed., in the chapter entitled "Santa Fe"; you find it also on the webpage [www.cirodiscepolo.it/altriarticoli.htm](http://www.cirodiscepolo.it/altriarticoli.htm).



Of course, as someone noticed (I think it was Kirfel) “any demonstration is useless for those who don’t want to believe, and it is superfluous for those who want to believe.” I would like to add that it is a waste of time to take a deaf to concert.

Still, concerning the question we are discussing, I think I can provide a very important provocation; I guess that even the most obstinate opponents couldn’t but reflect about it. Here it is. They argue that you can never know how Jane Smith’s destiny would have been if she remained home the day of her birthday, instead of leaving to somewhere else. Well; this may be referred to the natal chart as well as to the Solar Return. We declare that if *signor* Antonio Esposito were born in Naples he would have a kind of destiny, while if he were born in Moscow he would have another one, completely different. But – how can we prove it? Can we make *signor* Esposito be born twice, in two different locations, in order to be able to make a comparison?

Think about that.

**“The Solar Return map should be drawn for the native’s birthplace, not for e native’s domicile at the moment of his/her birthday.”**

Why? Who said so? If we ask the great masters of Astrology of the past and the present, they all answer that the maps are to be cast for the place where one actually spends the birthday – not for the place of birth. Tommaso Palamidessi, André Barbault, Henri J. Gouchon and Alexander Volguine: you can find their testimony in quotation marks on my webpage [www.cirodiscepolo.it/altriarticoli.htm](http://www.cirodiscepolo.it/altriarticoli.htm) and in my *Trattato pratico di Rivoluzioni solari*, Blue Diamond Ed. “Well – you could object – who cares of what those people said? I’m used to think with my own brain and I have no need of any prestigious support to my way of reasoning.” Someone explain me please,

then, what is the logical reason why I should domificate your SR chart for, say, Abbiategrasso just because you were born there 50 years ago, and not for Boston where you actually *are* on the day of your birthday. This goes evidently against the basic notion of astrology that is also the guideline of the Gestaltian analysis as well as the *Active Astrology*: i.e., *here and now*. Carl Gustav Jung said that astrology doesn't want to theorize anything else than the following concept: a human being, being born in a precise place and in a precise moment, takes the qualities of that place and that time, like if it were a good vintage wine.

Not to mention Astrogeografy, which would be deleted instantly if you thought that only our your place of birth counts eternally, while you can simply ignore any other place where you are in at a given time. This would be the negation of the basic principle of astrology that teaches us, in fact, that the geographical coordinates of a place have very much to do with our destiny. A Solar Return starts on the day of the birthday and ends the day of the following birthday; therefore it regards *that year* and *only that year*. So – why should you domificate for the place of birth instead of the location one currently occupies?

A new approach has been found out recently: you must not consider either the birthplace or the place corresponding to one's birthday, for you must take into consideration the town where the native usually resides. I do wonder why – is anybody able to tell me why, please?

Actually – apparently – there *may* be a reason why. In those people's mind the explanation would be as follows: John remains on the place of his birthday only a few hours while he spends the rest of the year at home: therefore it's his domestic stars what should really count; not the stars of the place where he spent only one day or two. One would say that this is an irrefutable argument, but it collapses if you only think to the illogicality of such a notion, for it should be automatically extended over the births. Say that a baby was born in Beijing and 5 hours later he's taken to live in Paris. What do you think?

Which horoscope would work and give us information on the native's life? The chart cast for Beijing or the other chart, domificated for the French capital?

**“One person's destiny cannot be changed by a ride *in the outskirts*.”**

We must repeat what we have just written above. If the baby is about to be born in Brindisi, we know that he is going to have a precise destiny, with his Houses drawn for that town. But what if his mother takes an airplane at the very last moment, because she wants to have her baby in Rio de Janeiro? Will her baby's destiny be the same or will it change? And if the latter is true, would its destiny be changed by a “ride in the outskirts”?

**“A man's destiny cannot be changed by spending one night in the room of a foreign hotel.”**

The ceiling over our head hasn't much importance, I daresay. Jesus was born in a cowshed and you wouldn't say that this caused a worse destiny for him.

**“Once, I tried to go away and I have verified that this system doesn't work.”**

Well, this is more or less what I hear from time to time from the lips of some young individuals who, having considered (and interpreted in their own way) their two or three previous Solar Returns with the SR Ascendant in the natal First House, they think that they can correct the data I have personally collected through over 14,000 cases examined in about 30 years of practical activity. Don't you find it a little overconfident to compare a one-digit number of experiences with a five-digit

number of experiences? Is this the way research and statistics should be carried out? Why then, why did they try and experience one or two aimed birthdays, if they could have simply asked for the fellow greengrocer's or anybody else's opinion, who doesn't even know the meaning of the expression "Aimed Solar Return"?

**"I am against the aimed birthday because I think that you should face the troubles for your personal growth."**

This is another ground of discussion. The dissenter admits (although he has just said exactly the contrary shortly ago) that ASR's do work; however he claims that you shouldn't "run away", but face the troubles of your life boldly, bravely, and firmly. It's facing them what makes you grow on a psychological ground. This is a valid and reasonable point of view, but besides the consideration that growth doesn't necessarily imply positiveness (tumours grow, too), I find that such a view is substantially deformed by the weight of the profoundly Catholic culture of our country. It is a culture that puts sufferance and sacrifice at the centre of the basic values of the human being. But if you get rid of such a Catholic view only for a moment and adopt a secular *Weltanschauung* of life, you cannot but admit that one can grow psychologically without suffering necessarily.

Many intellectuals – especially the leftist ones – have got the habit of behaving with a severe and bothered attitude, like if they had to bear the weight of the entire human race upon their own shoulders. Why can't one be at the same time sage and playful? mature and goliardic? deep and happy? inspired and with a good appetite? Who said that the only way to sanctity or towards a major psychological and spiritual growth passes inevitably through expiation and pain? Isn't it true that Pope John XXIII loved the good wine? Why then, provided that I can avoid troubles, should I renounce to such a chance? The fruition of the great novels of universal literature; the study of the Holy Scriptures; or even an experience of psychoanalysis; or deepening ourselves into astrology; not to mention the active

forms of voluntary work; why couldn't they all allow us to grow without unavoidably passing through jail, or through the jaws of loan sharks or of a malign tumour?

Are we really sure that in the 21st Century it still pays wearing a hair-shirt to fustigate ourselves, like it used to be in the Middle Ages? Couldn't we make use of the aimed birthday together with the advantages of warm water, air conditioners and the informatic and telematic revolution?

**“According to the law of Karma, if I avoid a trouble in this life I'll pay it with interests in my next life.”**

This is the *pièce de résistance* of the opponents of *Active Astrology*. I reply again like I've already replied once: just like the previous one, this is a fully rightful opinion too, which deserves our respect – just like any other. I think that I succeeded in demonstrating with my actions and declarations, and during all my life, to have fully embraced Voltaire's slogan: “For all my life I'll fight against your ideas, but for all my life I'll also fight for your right to express them.” There would be nothing else to say about it, if there weren't some eye-catching contradictions in those who express such an opinion. Let's see them in details. First of all, such a position can be put in practice either in a soft way or in a “fundamentalist” way: it is the case of Jehovah's Witnesses who refuse blood transfusion for their sons even if they could die without it. Theirs is a legitimate and criticisable position, but surely a coherent one. Let us look for the same coherence in those who make the criticism quoted in bold letters a few lines before. It's ages since I first made them a precise question – namely: “You are walking on the street and you just raise your glance, spotting a 200-kg vase fall down from a balcony onto your head. What do you do? Do you avoid it? or do you think that if you avoid it you'll have to pay a very expensive bill in your next life – so that you decide to remain there motionless in order to immolate your belief?” The only answer came from a female colleague who wrote that, being an ecologist soul, she would clasp the vase with her hands – for

she loves geranium a lot. It would be the only case in the world of a human being who can grab in its hands a 200-kg projectile. Apart from her, nobody else has answered my question. Let me ask then: if you are really convinced of that, why don't you renounce to take antibiotics in case of pneumonia? or to use condom when you have a risky intercourse? or to undertake a surgical intervention in case of a serious disease? or to vaccinate against flue? or to fast security belt in the car? or to drink bottled water when you are in Karachi? or to life insurance? and to strict surveillance over your kids (we could go on listing for much time)? So why not considering the Aimed Solar Return for what it really is? Not a pilgrimage to Lourdes, but much simpler and less emphatically a prosthesis or a support: such as an antibiotic, an umbrella, a shield, a condom or just a scarf on winter.

**“The aimed birthday is an élitist choice and only few people can afford it. It is therefore immoral to propose it.”**

This is the frequent conclusion of those who stated, until a few minutes before, that they don't believe to the efficiency of this practice, just to precise afterwards that in fact they can't afford travelling etc. etc. First of all I must observe that you can find the beauty and the variety in the world, but this does not depend on you. Isn't it true that who can afford it is ready to travel to Houston in order to undertake a cardiological surgical intervention? While those who cannot, simply go to the panel doctor of their own place. They do so with all the fears that this choice implies, especially in certain places with a situation that I don't want to mention because I don't want to hurt anybody's touchiness. Are we in a free market, in the liberist (in a broad sense) society – or are we longing back to the Soviet Union-like real socialism? Are we sure that citizens enjoyed the best health of the world there? Didn't their leaders have American surgeons operate themselves in the Kremlin?

Of course I don't want to talk about politics or ideologies here. I only wish to underline that who has got the chance, arranges home assistance for his/her aging parents; while those who can

not, they are compelled to recover them into a squalid sanatorium. Am *I* faulty for this? If the sky offers us such a chance, should I refuse it only because I think that not everybody can afford it? Is it really so, anyway? Let us consider the following example that happened to me yesterday, the 16th of October 2000. A 72-year-old lady from Lazio rang me yesterday with her eyes in tears to communicate her joy after coming back from her aimed birthday in Chicago.

She's a former dependent of her municipality, a retired school caretaker, and a widow without money. She had to leave to Chicago for her aimed birthday. She doesn't know a world of English; she's an elderly person as I said, and poor. She couldn't afford a one-week staying in Chicago, so she made a blitz-trip: she arrived in Chicago, she spent one night in a hotel close to the airport, and she travelled back the day after. She spent 1,200,000 Liras<sup>2</sup> altogether. Apart from the results she's to achieve, do you think that such an amount might prevent anybody from making an aimed birthday? Wouldn't a retired old lady like her spend more for physiotherapists or acupuncture, if she had serious health troubles during the year – say, an acute bone-ache? Like an amusing follower of mine from Abruzzi says: how many pizzas a year should you renounce to for the sake of an aimed birthday?

Often people say they don't have got that one or two million Liras<sup>3</sup> to spend on the trip. Still, were they hit by a serious disease they wouldn't hesitate to make debts to be operated by the most important surgeons of Northern Italy or abroad.

Do you know any other form or insurance that ensures (not to say that fully guarantees) a huge protective and all-comprehensive shield to you for such a modest premium? Are you seriously convinced that nowadays one must be a tycoon to take an airplane? Do you know, for instance, that you can buy a return ticket to London from Milan or Rome for about 200,000 Liras<sup>4</sup>?

Those who always plead poverty whenever travelling is concerned – could they honestly say they haven't thrown any money out of the windows during the year?

I know a very nice lady who makes 3-4 intercontinental travels every year for pure delight; well, she gets almost completely stuck whenever I recommend her to leave for her birthday. Are we sure that this taboo doesn't originate from something else? Don't you think that in many cases people don't admit that they simply are frightened of flying?

**“Yes, I do believe that the Solar Return must be domificated for the place occupied at the very moment of the Return, and that any different domification implies a different sky; but I think that you cannot achieve any result by leaving, for everything is already written in your natal chart.”**

My former student and now a very brilliant colleague of mine, Luigi Galli, has answered like follows:

Dear Graziella;

to tell the truth I don't understand your way of thinking very well.

First you assert that it is right to domificate for the place one actually occupies when the Return takes place; then you say with fatalism that it is useless to move anyway in order to try and modify the coming year: for what must happen, it happens anyway (in other words: domification is irrelevant).

Therefore I'm amazed for your asserting that when you use the Solar Returns, the Lunar Returns and the Returns of the Ascendant as a predictive method, you take into consideration the place where someone is at the moment of each return.



In any case, I think that the same fact can be lived in different ways. And this is exactly the purpose of relocation: to obtain the view of reality as good as possible (or the least awful one in the worst years).

But if you prefer to live your negative experiences in full because they help you “mature” and “fortify”; well, everybody is free to do what he wants of his life.

I agree upon the notion that Destiny is written in the natal chart; but this target can be reached walking through different paths.

In my opinion your scepticism about moving on (and I wish to pen off here) is eventually and exclusively a conceptual and a philosophical one; for I guess that it seems “impossible” to you that ASR’s may work at all. The best thing to do, I believe, is to verify personally this theory on the field; one can express suitably reliable remarks after this.

I’m sure that if you try them, you’ll change your mind about them.

Last, on your statement about travels being “a little bit slower” than today’s and the astrologers of those times who could have studied relocations in depth anyway, you see, I’m smiling on it. It’s like if you sought to cast an astral map for people born on another galaxy; some astrologer<sup>5</sup> is trying to theorize some hypotheses about it, but it’s evident that the subject is neglected by the majority, due to its lack of actuality and the poor scientific knowledge.

I wish you fruitful verifications.

Best regards,

**Luigi**

What can I add to this reply? I find it perfect. Perhaps I could repeat what I’ve said many times already. To the sceptics who

ask how can Neptune and Pluto – so far and so little – have any effect on our destiny, what do we answer? Try and study astrology on natal charts, and you’ll get persuaded. The debates about death, Samarqand and other fine stories taken from the immense database of fiction and literature of all the times and all the countries, they are picturesque and captivating: still, they are mere speculation. As for myself, even if I feel sympathy for the colleagues who keep on discussing about free will all life long, I prefer to deem myself – I beg you pardon for repeating – a radio repairer who knows that if he changes that one valve the radio will play; and I don’t care if the actual Nobel-prized for physics claims that this is impossible, since my client is satisfied with my repair. You could show me all the theoretical considerations to try to convince me that we cannot influence on our own destiny with the aimed birthdays; but thirty years of practice have proven exactly the opposite to me.

Last, and this is really the last consideration – how come could we change a baby’s destiny by making a Caesarean section that causes its anticipated birth, or having its mother go to somewhere else a few ours before the delivery; and we could not change the quality of only twelve months of our life by transferring ourselves on the day of our birthday?

### **“Uncle” Ciro**

Published on the Web, on the mailing list Astrologica (<http://www.egroups.com/community/Astrologica>), on the 18th of October 2000.

### **A short appendix**

Following this short writing of mine, my colleague declared her dissatisfaction and insisted that she thinks that one cannot change what it’s written in a natal chart. Therefore let me add a few considerations only – not to try to convince her; I would only like to grasp the occasion and be allowed to write down some further piece of reflection on this topic.

Let me start with a step backwards. At the beginning of human history man used to be devoured by beasts; he then discovered fire; he did not get rid of that danger; but fire at least allowed him to sleep some hours at night without being torn apart by the beasts. During the first years of the last century the average life of the mammal “man” was about 40 years. At the end of the century, i.e. last year, it was 80 years – it has doubled in less than 100 years. As a background of such an incredible miracle of nature we might borrow the picturesque image of the monolith of *2001: A Space Odyssey* by Stanley Kubrick, with its metaphor of the human travel from his original primitive form of an ape accompanied by the theme *Also sprach Zarathustra*, until the being of pure mental-spiritual essence who floats in the outer space after the scene of the checked room in Arthur C. Clarke’s masterpiece. The stele is an icon of knowledge allowing human growth, freeing our race from diseases and a lot of other troubles. Personally, I firmly believe in the power of Knowledge – Knowledge as a synonym of emancipation.

If you just think about it, perhaps what has globally changed man’s

life in the last decades it’s the discovery of penicillin. At the early beginning of the XX century one could die of a simple pneumonia, whilst later on this used to happen no longer. Let us stop and reflect for a moment, by considering two “identical” natal charts: say, both with a very close conjunction of Mars-Saturn-and-Another\_malefic\_planet in Gemini, in the natal 6th House. Say that one chart belongs to a woman born in Africa in 1700, whereas the other one belongs to a woman who was born and who lived in Chicago after 1960.

From a destinic point of view – at least as far as potential pulmonary pathologies are concerned – I think that we all agree upon the following: the two women we’re taking in consideration had the same negative tendencies and potentialities. Do you maybe think that their destiny could have been identical from this point of view? Haven’t we the right to suppose that the former would very probably die young of pneumonia or consumption, whereas the latter would live until the age of 80

years? Couldn't penicillin have marked the difference between their two destinies? And what about the destiny written in the natal chart? Well, both their destinies told us about a strong disposition toward respiratory and/or pulmonary diseases. We would find this in both women, in fact; the difference being that the former would die young and the latter would suffer from unremitting colds and/or other specific infirmities for all her life. Nonetheless the former native would live long thanks to scientific discoveries that have doubled the average life of human beings – they've done it in reality, not only in declaration. So, if penicillin can change a man's or a woman's quality of life without twisting up the precise meanings shown by his or her natal chart; why then could not an aimed birthday succeed in doing that too? In other words – do we (at least we astrologers) believe in the power of stars, or not?

### **A short post-appendix**

Shortly after the appearance (on the Internet) of the above writing, a lady asked me: “But if you raise your head (remember? The falling vase) wasn't *that* already written in your Karma?” Well, we face two possibilities then. When we are asked whether we wish to undertake a surgical operation or not, what do we answer? If we are persuaded that the answer is already written, then it would be correct *not* to answer at all.

But if we think so, shouldn't we be consistent and stay passive before any choice of life? How could we deal with the many decisions we are supposed to take day after day? To this extent we should abscond and avoid any decision about: to vaccinate or not to vaccinate; to make a mammography or not to make it; to wash the vegetables or not to wash them; to eat raw seafood or not to eat it; to remain or not to remain inactive when a robber wants our wallet; to defend or not to defend ourselves when somebody accuses us of having taken part into a group scuffle; and we could go on for two or three hundred pages. In a word, when I consider whether to fly or not to fly to Moscow for my birthday, I don't ask philosophical questions to myself:

for if I find that this is good for me, according to my own experience – I simply go.

**Translator’s Notes**

<sup>1</sup> Here it is and here it isn’t; Now you see it, now you don’t.

<sup>2</sup> Approx. 620 •

<sup>3</sup> 500 – 1,000 •

<sup>4</sup> Approx. 103 •

<sup>5</sup> It’s an allusion to Luciano Drusetta’s *Extraterrestrial Astrology*.



## Total protection doesn't exist

Total protection doesn't exist. To my best knowledge it doesn't exist either in astrology or anywhere else. In this chapter I wish to establish – at least as a general rule – what could be the level of protection you can expect to achieve by applying the rules of *Active Astrology*. Before proceeding in this direction I would like to list three examples that demonstrate how you can not find the absolute anywhere: even in those sectors of the science that the collective imaginery considers to be the depositaries of the full certainty.

I gladly remember an episode reported to me by a close friend of mine, Mr. Mario Pavesio. Besides being a real genius in mathematics, physics, electronics, informatics and many other fields, Mario is also a man with an extraordinary sense of humour. It was around the middle '60s when one of the first pocket scientific calculators was put on the market. I think it was a Texas Instruments or an HP. My friend Mario brought one to *Selenia*, where he used to work. There he got immediately besieged by a crowd of technicians and engineers fascinated by that “toy”. He showed it very pleased and with pride. Then an engineer approached who was a well-known “brain” (though I wouldn't have ever believed that there could be anyone smarter than Mario). He looked at the “tool” and said: “And – how many times does it fails?” “What do you mean?” said Mario: “This never fails!” The engineer just stepped away visibly annoyed; he would never address Mario again. My friend gathered further information and realized that electronic calculators actually imply a frequency of errors. I cannot explain it in details, for I don't remember them: the bottom line is that – if I remember it well – when considering many decimal digits, say 30-40 digits after the decimal point, a high (or low) bit causes the last digit to round up (or down) to the higher (or to the lower) digit. Under this condition it happens that once in many billions of operations, a “wrong” result might come out. This is the first of the three examples I referred to. Let us see the second example:

contraceptive pill. Many people say that it guarantees a total protection against any risk of unwanted pregnancies, while it isn't so. I'll quote from the encyclopaedia *Encarta*: "The currently available contraceptive means range from the permanent procedures, such as surgical sterilization, to the temporary devices that must be used at each sexual intercourse. Their efficiency is defined by the so-called Pearl Index (PI), i.e. the number of unprogrammed pregnancies reported every 100 women who use the method for one year. The more efficient the method, the closer to zero the PI.

### ***Steroid contraceptives***

Oral contraceptives, commonly called 'the pill', are made of chemical substances very similar to the natural hormones (estrogens and progesterone). These work blocking ovulation, making it difficult the passage of spermatozoa from the vagina to the uterus, and making it inhospitable the uterine environment where the egg cell should nest in case of fecundation. If taken following the instructions carefully, the pill has a high contraceptive efficiency (PI = 0.25 to 2)."

Hence, as you can read, neither the pill protects at 100%.

Last, let us consider the lead sheets inserted in the walls of radiological laboratories to protect radiologists from the ionizing bombardment caused by their own profession. Do you think that in this case, also thanks to the severe international regulations of occupational medicine, the protection is total? Not at all. Maybe you all noticed that many elder radiologists have got eye-catching spots on their skin. Apart from this, in an official document (<http://www.lnf.infn.it/lnfadmin/radiation/principiradioprotezione.html>) we read the following:

## **8. FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES OF RADIOLOGICAL PROTECTION**

No exposition to ionizing radiations, regardless their weakness, can be considered totally sure: this circumstance has led ICRP to

recommend a system of radiological protection based on three fundamental principles: justification of the practice; optimization of the protection; limitation of the individual doses. These principles have been fully integrated into the regulation of Italian Law recently approved through the Art. 2 of the Legal Decree nr. 230/95, which establishes their respect in the discipline of the activities having a risk of ionizing radiations, according to the following terms:

*a) the types of activity that imply an exposition to ionizing radiations must be preventively justified and periodically reconsidered by the light of the benefits deriving from them;*

*b) any exposure to ionizing radiations must be kept at the lowest level that can be reasonably obtained, taking in consideration the economical and social factors;*

*c) the sum of received and employed doses must not trespass the prescribed limits, according to the dispositions of this decree and the relevant applicative measures.*

The abovementioned are the three examples I was talking about. Let us see now what has been the occasion that prompted me to write these lines. During a telephone conversation one of my pupils expressed his astonishment for my asserting that one could die even during a “good” Solar Return. I said: “What did you think? that practising the Aimed Solar Returns one can become immortal or live up to 200 years?” He said: “Well, I guessed that sooner or later, for any reason, one wouldn’t succeed in leaving; and that he would eventually die for a bad Solar Return.”

Obviously this is a self-commenting story: any further consideration about such a distorted view of reality is futile. Nonetheless it is a good thing – in my opinion – to focus on the degree of protection that one can achieve following the principles of *Active Astrology*. I’ve already explained in several writings of mine that according to my experience a good aimed birthday can protect you around the 80-85 percent compared with the misfortunes you might face during the year, whereas the practice of the exorcization of symbols could be considered inside a value ranging from 40 to 50 % of such an



“antistellar” shield.

Nonetheless many factors can influence on the evaluation of these parameters. Of course I don't pretend them to be considered absolute parameters, but only a reference point – although, in my opinion, this point of reference is very close to reality.

First, it would be correct to take in consideration a double truth: the native leaves every year for an ASR (Aimed Solar Return); or sometimes the native leaves, sometimes it doesn't. I am currently following two-three cases of people I care very much (despite they are not relatives of mine) and maybe I'll write something about them when they come out from the tunnel. In some cases it is absolutely evident that a very bad SR may take effect even one or two or  $x$  years later. It is the case of many tumours that have a quite long time of latency. People in good faith find it evident that one thing is travelling every year for ten years on the day of one's birthday; but pretending to guarantee a strong “protective shield” to those who – following the astrologer's advice – accept to leave for the first time, well: that's another kettle of fish. Our organism is certainly a receptacle of waste of every kind, whose ceaseless pollution proceeds from everywhere and weakens us day after day. Therefore the protection against diseases guarantees results if we protect ourselves constantly, whereas the results are different if we do so only from time to time.

The second point worth to be focused in this context concerns the complete family. A lady doctor from Central Italy once told me: “After having left for my birthday, my year has been a fairly good one; but my husband had a heart attack, my son has become a drug addict, and...” Well, I must repeat once again: by aiming our own birthday we can try and defend ourselves – but we cannot defend our relatives too. If it weren't so, it would be enough to have one member of the family leave and the result would be guaranteed. Unluckily the reality is far away from this: I know, because I must organize four journeys a year – one for each of the four members of my own family.

I find it rather logical to suppose that a “team-work” could benefit the squad much more than if the family lacks team spirit. What I

mean, in other words, is that if the family follows the philosophy of the aimed birthday and each of the members goes away on the day of his/her own birthday, it is extremely rare that they might face major misfortunes during the following year. *Extremely rare* does not mean: absolutely never. The absolute, I repeat, doesn't exist in my mind. We can certainly do our best to improve the quality of our own life; but we cannot avoid completely the event of accidents or death.

I look at this practice with much optimism due to my personal statistics, coming from hundred of ASR's over thirty years of activity; but at the same time my spirit isn't so excited as to pump up my fancies of power making me aim to any "total protection". My daily concern is above all the fear that something particularly unpleasant might happen to my dearest ones. As far as this aspect is concerned, whenever it happens, without being too indulgent with myself – I daresay that I've already acquitted myself.

## The correction of the thirty rules

In my book *Transiti e Rivoluzioni solari* published by Armenia I listed thirty rules that, in my opinion, could represent a good starting point for reading the reality of the events that happen to us year by year. For the sake of truth, shortly after I underlined that it is a starting point: not the Tablets of Stone of the Bible. Many readers judged with an excessive flexibility the due modesty that had impelled me to write so – and they felt they're allowed to understand that those rules can be modified without any major effort.

I make an example. I wrote that, according to my experience, the twenty days before and the twenty days after the birthday are extraordinarily important – for the great majority of the most important events of one's life is concentrated in this period. Well, I can assure you that I haven't drawn this number "20" out from the basket of bingo: it comes out from lasting meditations on the field.

I occasionally happen to hear people say – or write down on mailing lists – more or less like this: "I've noticed that sometimes the events happen even thirty days before and after the birthday." Then somebody else writes: "Yes, and I noticed that they happen even forty days after and before." Another says: "But I can prove you that the events, in some cases, happen even 45 days after and before the Solar Return." Then the vote is often taken by hand raising and the new rule is: 45 days before and after the birthday.

Let me call those people to order, friendly but firmly: this is not the way statistics and research can be carried out. To make my point of view clearer I would like to refer to the following graph that reports what André Barbault elaborated in a wonderful research on orphanage ([www.cirodiscepolo.it/Barbault.htm](http://www.cirodiscepolo.it/Barbault.htm)).

Watch the drawing carefully. It shows the distribution of Saturn in the Houses in 264 natal charts of the orphans over whom my great French master investigated. As you can see, he found a very high concentration in the 4th and the 10th House. Although some “dot” can be found also in the 8th, 6th, 5th House and so on. What should have we deduced then? That orphanage is a specific feature of the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, IV, 5th, 6th, VII, 8th, 9th, X, 11th and 12th House?

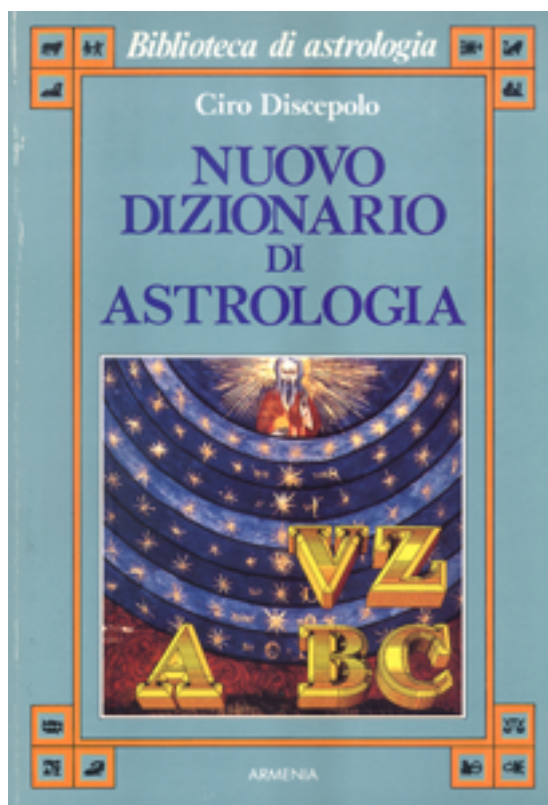


Back to our starting example: don't you think that I too have noticed that some events take place one, two, or  $x$  months after and before the birthday? If I wrote, according to my experience, that you should consider the twenty days before and the twenty days after the birthday, it's because of the massive concentration of important events in those days. We cannot exclude that some “dot” may be found a little beyond, or a little before, this range.

If it weren't so, we could generalize and behave like our Civil Protection, which sends tons of fax messages to all the prefectures of Italy at any announcement of bad weather: many alerts, no alert; many days, no day.

I would like to reach the conclusion of this chapter by repeating that everybody is free to change the afore mentioned thirty rules,

but please: at least do that after examining thousands of cases and after decades of study on this subject.



## Suspicious amnesias and missing abjurations

A few days ago a lady from Emilia who has been following me on the Aimered Solar Returns phoned me asking for a clarification: “A local female astrologer – she said – claims that she uses a different method than yours. She follows Volguine’s technique, who theorizes that the Solar Return chart must be cast for one’s place of birth, not for one’s place of birthday...”

It wouldn’t be worth to publish my reply to the lady if it weren’t that I’ve been hearing the same objection quite often recently.

“Dear Madam – I replied – it is a matter of fact that everybody is free to follow the school he/she prefers; thanks to God everybody has got a head to think with and to understand what it works and what it doesn’t work. In my opinion it is also a matter of fact that some people, with their suspicious amnesias, can not twist and falsify (not in the sense given to this term by Mr. Popper) reality. Volguine certainly had a very different view than mine as far as Solar Returns (and I’m happily satisfied with that); nonetheless as far as the place where the return chart must be cast, he thought exactly the way I do. This is what we can read in his only one book on this subject (page 22 of the Italian edition, July 1972): **“Before starting the exposition of the technique of interpretation of Solar Returns, i.e. the subject of the following chapter, we must call the astrologers’ attention to the necessity of casting the yearly charts not for the place of birth, but for the place in which the native is at the moment of his/her anniversary.”** (I would like to specify that the above sentence is printed in bold letters in the original.)

Since we are facing this topic, I must notice with pleasure that somewhere here in Italy – where I’ve been fought all my life because of the Aimered Solar Returns; I’ve been called a visionary; they have kept on claiming at every occasion that the return chart

must be domificated for the birthplace and not for the place of birthday – I must notice, I say, that without any public abjuration some people has waken up one morning and has suddenly made a 180°-inversion on this topic. They have even offered to their subscribers as a Christmas gift a technical mini-support that “will provide an indispensable help to trace and indicate the most favourable localities where to spend your birthday, with the aim of ‘catching’ the best stars, the safest Ascendant, the least insidious configurations.”

The historians of the Italian astrology of this century are invited to take due note of these striking conversions on the way to Damascus – especially as far as the date (December 1999) is concerned.

(I posted this message on different groups of discussions of the Internet on the 22nd of December 1999)



## **Practice of transits and Solar Returns**

(the following practical examples are taken from the homonym file published  
quarterly on *Ricerca '90*)

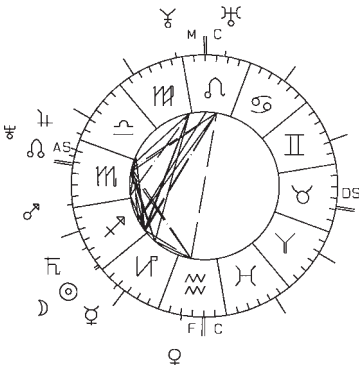


## A few very interesting cases

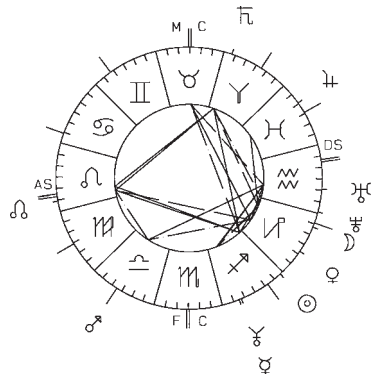
The first case I introduce today is the case of one of my good pupils, *Signor* Emilio Toscano. Despite his surname he's from Campania. He gets all my appreciation and esteem, because despite having become famous as the personal astrologer of many VIP's of the entertainment factory in Rome, unlike many others, Emilio Toscano constantly tells everybody that he's my pupil and that he follows the teachings of my school. This might look like a banality, but it is not if you consider – as an instance – the case of another pupil of mine from Genoa who phones me very often making many compliments to me and asking for my advice in favour of his clients. To the latter I once said: “Tell me: do *you* tell to your clients that you're my pupil?” “Are you crazy? – he replied – if I do so everybody comes to you and I get unemployed!”

Back to Emilio: quite humbly of him, even if he follows the rules of my books, he comes and visits me every year to have my piece of advice on his coming ASR. I sent him to Boston on December 1998: as you can see from the enclosed charts I put the Ascendant of SR into his natal 10th House, and a wonderful stellium with Sun, Venus and Moon into the 5th House. Note that during the following twelve months he would get Uranus square to the Ascendant – not exactly the very best... However, considering the whole of his situation, I advised him to go to Boston. So he did. What about the results? A very special year with an absolutely particular event: Gabriele Salvatores wanted him to act in a fairly important role (the central character's friend astrologer) in a film that hasn't been distributed yet while I'm dropping these lines (January 2000), but it will be very soon.

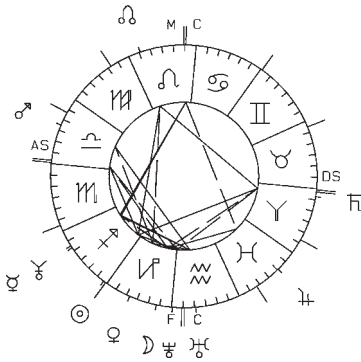
Consider his BSR (Base Solar Return), i.e. the SR he would have had if he had remained in Rome in 1998 the day of his birthday: Ascendant in the 12th and Mars in the 12th. Do you think that such a SR would have implied the year that he has actually experienced?



Emilio Toscano, natal



SR 1998, Boston



BSR 1998 (Rome)

The two stories I'm about to tell you may appear incredible, but astrology has got the extraordinary capacity of drilling through the membrane of the apparent indecipherability that wraps many aspects of this life of ours.

The sign of Scorpio, among the greatest archetypes of mystery, once again shows off all its power revealing what we could well define as its most peculiar character: its subtle, profound and unconscious will to hurt itself. The first case is a female native, an officer of a public organization in Romagna with a strong talent for dance and singing. She arranges cover songs on Edith Piaf's style, but not only Piaf's. For several years she's been pursuing

the ambition of organizing – with the patronage of the municipality of her town – a show based on herself and her musical-theatrical performance. I must say that I have listened to a recorded tape of hers, which amazed me with pleasure for her talent; her gorgeous voice; her strong personality; her considerable gift. I'm not a music expert, but I find her very skilled and very like, in her style, to Miranda Martino: a singer whom I loved very much when I was young.

Back to the facts. Considering her huge expectation – which never became true – when we met in October 1998 I advised her to spend an aimed birthday in Dubai, and she did it – not without any initial resistance.

One year after we met again to draw up the balance of the past year. Listening to her story was like reading a handbook; I report it here as faithfully as possible in order to help other restless Scorpios forever looking for inner torment. To make a long story short, after spending her birthday in Dubai the lady obtained the local councillor's consent to organize the show.

Things went on and she made the rehearsal; after many years she eventually succeeded in finding a good musician who composed the apt arrangements for her; the date of the show was arranged too; the show had been announced to newspapers and put into the official list of cultural activities of her town of residence. Approximately one month before her following birthday she felt down and broke her elbow.

The event hadn't direct and determining consequences on her show, but it threw a bad light onto the artist's situation – and conditioned her very much. Note that in the SR of Dubai, besides the Ascendant in the 10th House and a wonderful stellium in the 5th – what gave her a pass for her many-year-old project – there's also a Saturn in the 10th (bone fracture for her mother). In the meantime the day of the performance arrived. It had been organized in the open air and in the evening.

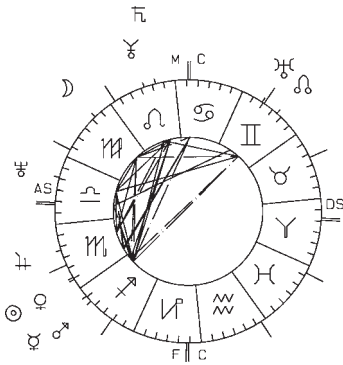
Here comes a female "friend", who told her that she interpreted negatively certain signs such as the accident to the artist's mother. She also suggested that it could rain too that evening (while the weather was extraordinary, it was almost a summer evening). She eventually compelled the artist lady to renounce. So she did: a few hours before the performance the lady phoned to the councillor

and, committing an... artistic hara-kiri, renounced to the show. End of the story. In the BSR chart you can see only an ugly 6th House (which absolutely didn't show itself during the year) and a Jupiter in the 10th, which should have meant opposite events than those actually happened to the artist's mother.

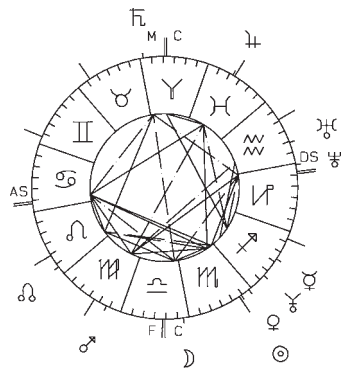
The second case is the case of a young university student from the Italian-speaking regions of Switzerland; a smart young man from a very good family. He's 22 and he had never had a girl – not even a sexual experience. He was longing for both; he was studying on my books and he asked for my help. I proposed him a birthday in Phuket in 1998 with Sun, Ascendant, Venus and a stellium in the 5th House: a real bomb!

One year later I got his written report, very detailed and upsetting. Things went, more or less, like follows. He had just come back from Phuket when, **one week after his birthday**, he received the letter from a beautiful Spanish girl whom he had met a few years before. She wrote him very nice things. She definitely flirted with him and, to make the story short, she openly invited him to go and spend one week at her place. The young man didn't reply for two months. The girl started writing and phoning to him often, always using sweet and appealing words.

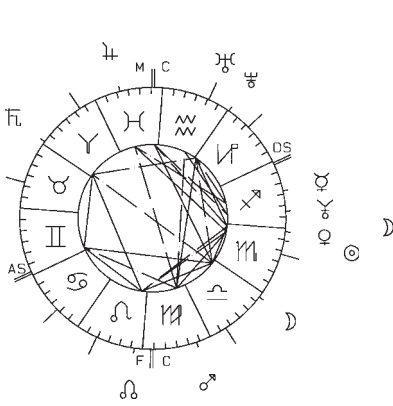
He answered coldly and a few months later the girl got tired of him and sent him to hell. Any honest scholar astrologer, even my opponents, must admit that either in this case and in the former one, the ASR had achieved the 100% of the expected result. Only the native's "suicide" prevented each of them from the full completion of their most desired action. But I often say that for the miracles, many times the ASR's still work, while for the impossible cases we'll try harder... Some could argue that in this case the BSR (Switzerland) could have worked, *not* the aimed one: Sun and stellium in the 7th House. But facts are striking: 1) the young man proceeded well with his own education (Mars in the 3rd House of ASR); 2) he hadn't any problem from a Mars in the 6th House (BSR); 3) the very good 5th House (ASR) expressed itself sensationally: the young man got deeply fond of computer flight simulators and played all the year long with them and with the erotic videogames on the Internet.



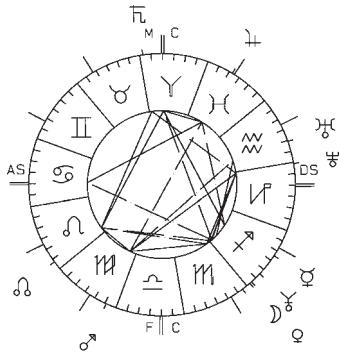
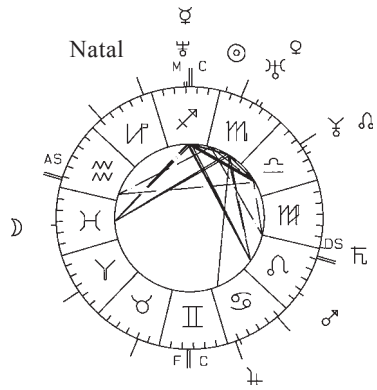
Female, natal



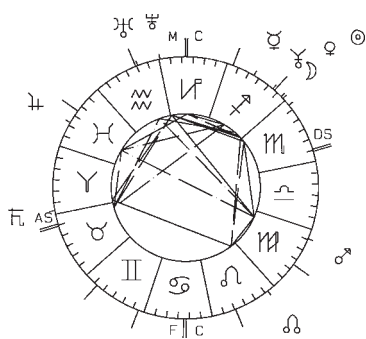
ASR, Dubai



BSR



ASR, Phuket



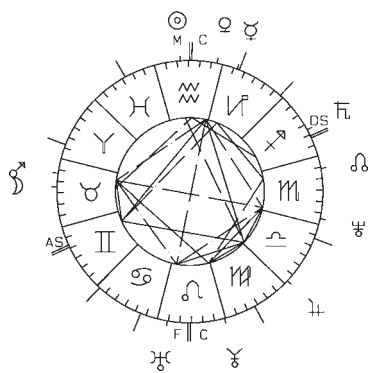
BSR

The following charts refer to an entrepreneur from Lazio whom I suggested to spend his birthday of 1999 in the Isle of Horta, in the Azores (Portugal). During the most recent years of my activity I have been trying harder and harder to achieve, with an ASR (whenever it is possible), two simultaneous goals: to reach the aim people consult me for; and to try to correct the native's time of birth. The latter is surely the most controversial aspect of the technique of the ASR's; our many-year-old balance – either positive

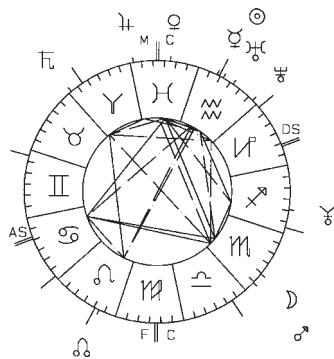
and negative – on this field depends upon it. In the case we are talking about I had never trusted the round hour of birth (12 o'clock) given by my client in our first meeting a few years ago. I suspected – and now I think I've got the evidence of it – that he was born at least a quarter of an hour earlier. For this reason when I chose the place for his Return I put his Venus a little detached from the Medium Coeli, and his Sun theoretically in the 8th House. I expected Venus to fall in a more or less precise conjunction with the M.C. and the Sun: one year later it would prove to have fallen into the 9th – not into the 8th House.

Twelve months after, the native's brief report was, more or less, as follows: a very good year from the working point of view (Jupiter and Venus in the 10th and the Asc. in the 2nd); he bought a new car; he made some important journeys and suffered from a minor car accident. Don't you think that everything matches? If the valid SR were the basic one, with that Saturn in the 9th conjunct to M.C., how would you explain all this?

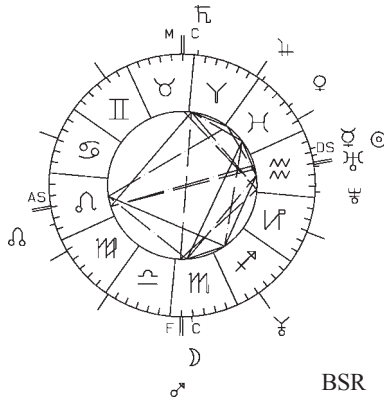
Of course, every time I have got the chance to insert similar "baits" in his ASR's, I'll do that in order to approach as much as possible, step by step, to his real time of birth.



Natal



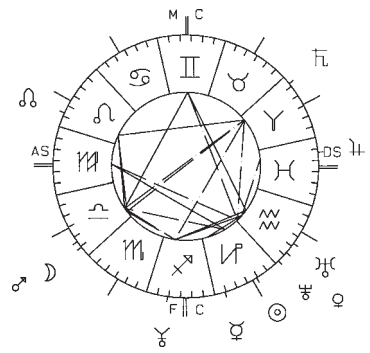
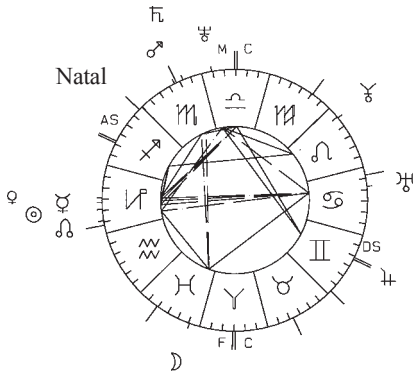
ASR, Horta



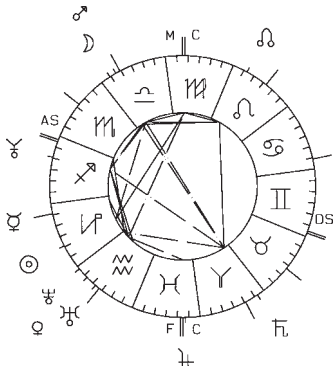
The female to whom the following charts refer is a teacher from Veneto. In 1998 she had two key problems to solve, namely: a lasting and hard court case; and a naughty matrimonial situation caused by her husband’s relationship with his own secretary. I suggested her a birthday in Cancun with the specific aim to protect and improve her 7th and 5th House. One year later she wrote to me with three good pieces of news: 1) a “hostile” judge had been replaced; 2) she had the opportunity to shut down the whole affair by means of a judicial transaction; 3) her husband’s secretary resigned, and this enhanced her marital relationship. As you can see from her ASR in Cancun, Jupiter had been placed into the 7th House and the stellium with Sun and Venus into the 5th (in particular, Uranus in the 5th embodied the *coup de théâtre* of the secretary’s resignation).

Is anybody able to explain me, had we considered the BSR (in Veneto) as the valid chart of Return, how it could match such situation with a SR Ascendant in the 12th natal House and with a very naughty Saturn in the 5th House of Solar?





ASR, Cancun

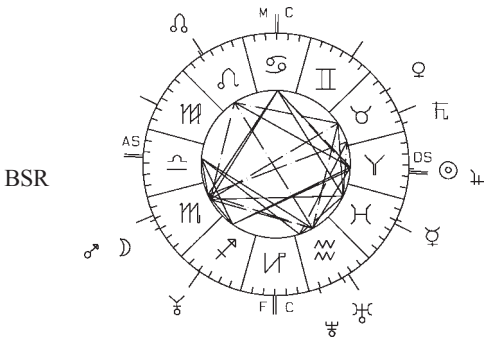
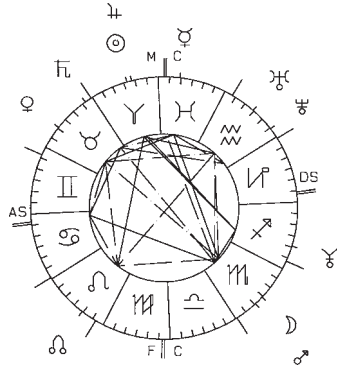
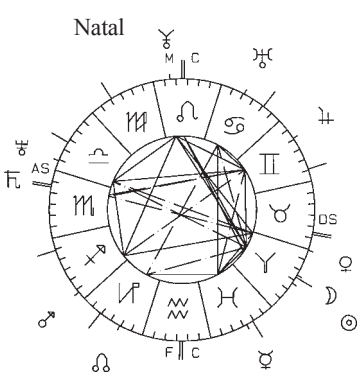


BSR

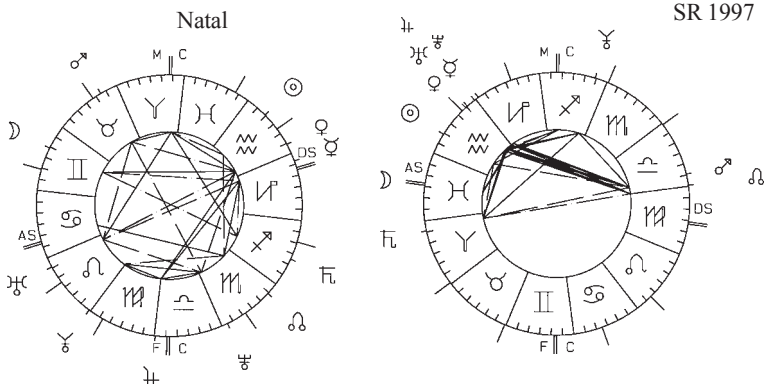
The female subject whose case I'm reporting is a lady from Tuscany who works in the field of artistic valuables. She had a very ambitious project; she wanted to buy a real estate for an all-in-gigantic amount, which she succeeded in regaining almost completely from the previous selling of another property. Still, if she had invested that amount like she planned, this would have drained all her finances.

As you can see from the following charts, I suggested her to go to Acapulco, Mexico. This would have horrified many beginners in the field of ASR's who also pretend to know everything about it: for I placed her Ascendant into the Solar 8th House. But I also

placed the wonderful conjunction Sun-Jupiter into the 10th. One year later I got her report and the request for a new destination. The extremely essential facts of the year had been the following: the unexpected arrival of a mortgage that allowed her to invest her capital in a different way; a wild love affair with a much younger man that – after so many years – conveyed her back to an incredible and forgotten sexual life; and last, a burglary (though not very important). As you can see, once again the match of 10th-8th-5th expressed itself like the handbooks report (also Uranus and Neptune in the 8th House played their own role in association with sex and the theft). So the native herself said that it was a really “special” year that made her change her mind and convinced her of the validity of ASR’s. The BSR can not absolutely explain the excellent output of that year.

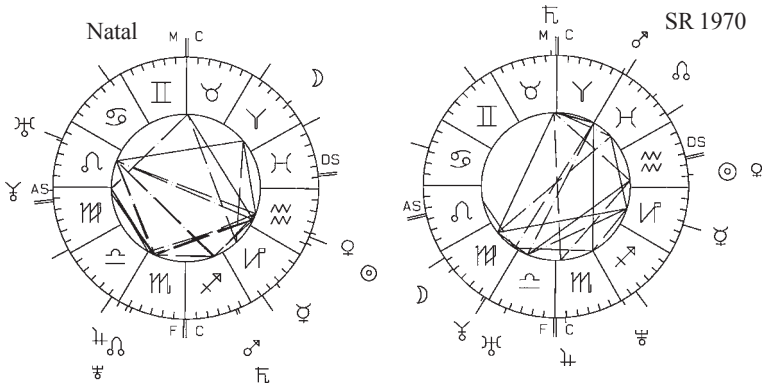


The lady from Campania protagonist of this case had spent her 1997 birthday at home, without going anywhere. The Return took place early in the morning of her date of birth. The very same evening she went out to celebrate her birthday at a female friend's. As you can see from her charts, she had little to celebrate with a Sun in the 12th House and a nasty Mars in the 7th. In fact in that very moment, the day of her birthday, thieves cleaned out her house.



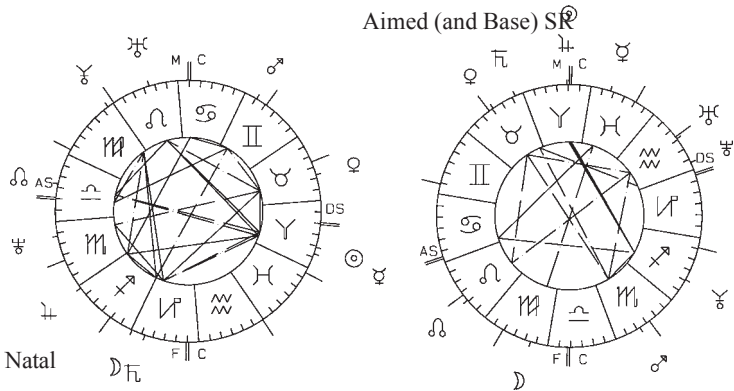
This lady from Emilia is the yet another demonstration of what I've been claiming for years: the major problems to the eyes and to the sense of sight belong to the axle: Pisces-Virgo and 12th-6th House. As you can see from her natal chart, the Sun is on the very cusp between the 5th and the 6th House: were she born 10 minutes before the declared time, this would be enough to have her Sun definitely in the 6th. Moreover, the Ascendant is Virgo. In 1970, as a young girl, she had already suffered from a serious myopia and astigmatism, which compelled her to undertake a surgical operation. Unluckily the operation caused a strong weakening of her sight and further damages, which forced her to undertake further operations for glaucoma and cataract in the following years. I've been following her with the aimed birthdays since 1995 or 1996, if I remember it well; her situation has stabilized without any further

worsening. Please note her terrible SR of 1970, the year before the fatal surgical operation. The Asc. of SR was in the 12th; the Sun and a stellium in the 6th; and a very bad Saturn tightened the M.C. of the Solar chart.



The following male from Marche helps us understand better some facts about the practice of ASR's. The first fact is that a Base Solar Return, when it is sought after, is an ASR anyway: even if you actually don't move from the place you live in. This native had a gym club that he wanted to sell up because it was causing him a deep financial passive – he was literally broke. I obviously suggested him not to go anywhere in order to keep his wonderful conjunction Jupiter-Sun exactly at his MC. He had his birthday in March 1999; since then he rang me incessantly, even once a week, in a dramatic mood. He complained that he wasn't able to sell his gym yet and that he was sinking deeper and deeper. As months went by his calls became more and more tragic: rather than questioning, they represented a real sequel of SOS's shouted out with growing emphasis. His last calls hardly hid possible deadly consequences of his situation. I tried to encourage him asking him to have faith, because such a SR could *not* produce any disaster. The situation changed in November: then he rang me very excited for having sold his gym club and having found that every cloud has a silver lining. At Christmas he sent me a postcard full of

words of affection and esteem. This must make us reflect about the following fact: the practice of ASR's is not for anybody. Despite being a double (compensated) Cancer I have a very strong dominant Sun. Up to this day I've managed to absorb – *almost* uninjured – the wave of fear, trepidation, panic, anguish and neurosis that overwhelms me daily proceeding from the people who await for the developments of their own ASR and who question me – mainly expecting a soothing word from my lips. If you aren't moved mainly by love for your fellow human being, you better change your root. For this practice is extremely hard, and you need to have at least a little of the altruistic attitude of a Red Cross nurse (three planets in the 12th House) to devote yourself to this colossal sacrifice. On the other hand, as you can see, together with the sorrows and the dark days you can also have lots of satisfactions. Coming back to the conjunction Jupiter-Sun at the Medium Coeli or to some other similar configuration, I must say that this not always would work as expected. I remember as an instance the sacrifice of a mother with her 16 or 18-year-old daughter, who was a very lazy student. We made her travel for her birthday but despite a good position in her ASR, she was eventually rejected. Her mother got really astonished, I did not. Probably the girl had relied upon her ASR and spent the year without studying at all. But she had counted wrong and she should have better spent that money on a personal tutor.



## An Aimed Solar Return in the Azores

This is a young but not-so-young lady from Umbria, where she lives. For many years she's been longing for a professional and sentimental achievement, in vain. His BSR of 1999 shows an Ascendant in the 12th House and an opposition Sun-Saturn/Mars over the 2nd and the 8th House. Nothing good from any point of view! I therefore proposed her an ASR in Flores, the farthest of the isles Azores (Portugal) – I mean the closest to the American continent. With this operation I aimed to two different results: improving the SR very much; and getting some further information on her time of birth.

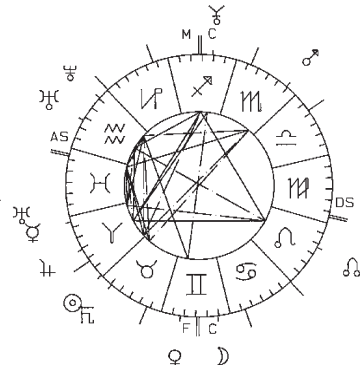
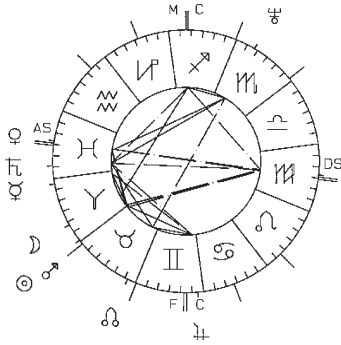
At the end of March 2000, like every year, together with the report of the main events of the ending year I received the request to plan a new ASR. Mary (it's a fictional name) had moved quite often during that year. She had actually commuted very much because she had started up in a quite successful trade in a small town 20-30 kms away from her place of residence (Jupiter and Sun in the 3rd House).

She had also had a good year as far as love, having started a cohabitation with her fiancé and – *dulcis in fundo* – she had got pregnant! The only flaw of the last eleven months was the fact that, not finding home, she and her partner had been living at his loving parents' place. This was a narrow attic, so she felt like living in a cell due to its great discomfort.

You can easily understand that the Saturn placed on the Imum Coeli was telling us that it was actually located in the 4th House of Solar: as a consequence, Mary must have been born before – and not after – the given hour of birth.

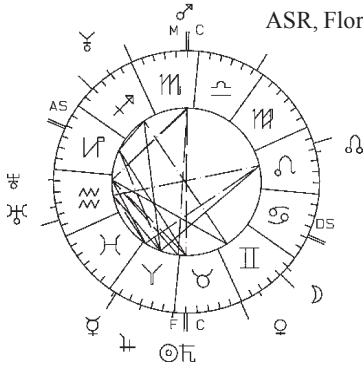
Those who believe that a SR works with the domification for the place of birth or of residence should explain: the 12th House, the bad axis 2nd-8th, the commuting, the living discomfort, and the pregnancy!

Natal



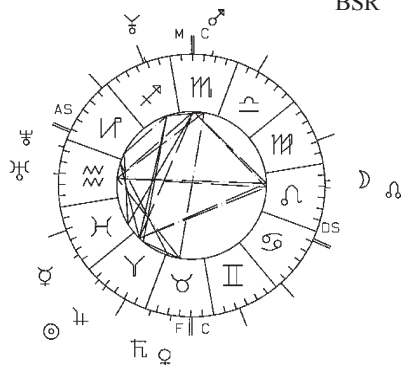
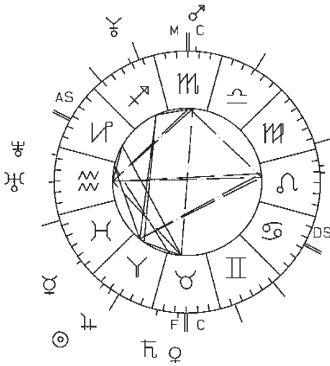
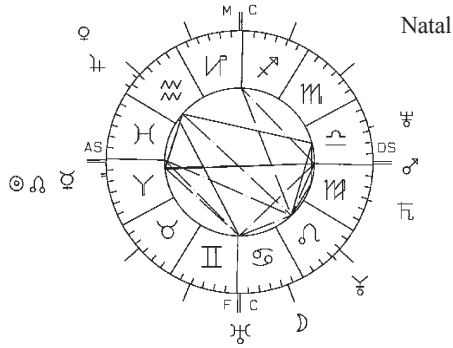
BSR

ASR, Flores (Azores)



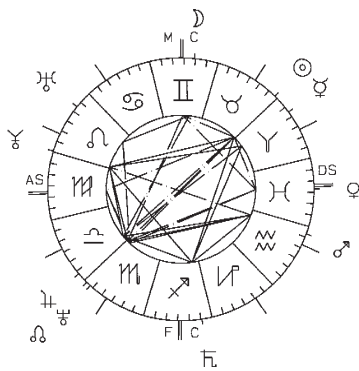
The male whose charts we are considering here had a very serious problem to solve in March 1999. He's an entrepreneur working in the artistic field, and he was facing several lawsuits with former employees. Had he lost the suits he would have been totally ruined, for it was a matter of several billions Liras<sup>1</sup>. For him I chose a modest correction to the BSR, making him travel to Genoa in order to have the Solar Return Ascendant fall into his natal 10th, and the conjunction Jupiter-Sun into the 2nd House. I was confident of the success of this operation because along the year Jupiter would be trine to his natal MC and sextile to the nice BSR

conjunction Venus-Jupiter in his natal 12th House. I also kept into due account the native's preceding story. Facts proved me right: in November and December 1999 he got four (say *four*) favourable verdicts!

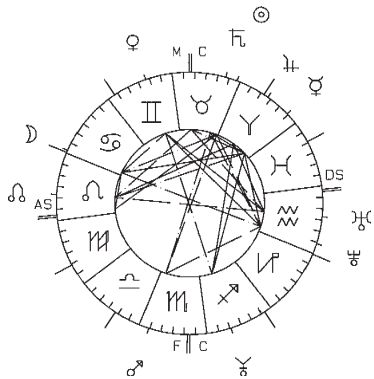




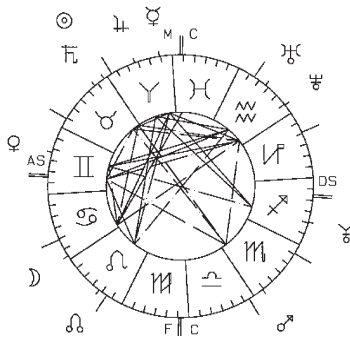
This is an entrepreneur from Central-Southern Italy who's keen on race cars and makes races himself in the category "sports car". His BSR of 1999 showed a SR Ascendant in his natal 12th House and a bad opposition of Sun-Saturn/Mars on the 9th and 3rd House: too much for a race car pilot! I suggested him to go to Salvador de Bahia, Brazil. There he would have an Ascendant in the 10th together with Jupiter, while the dangerous opposition would be placed elsewhere than the 3rd-9th. One year later I met him again and he declared to be very satisfied with that year, particularly on one point: he had noticed a strong growth of his own character. He meant that while he used to take position on nothing, today he normally acts with determination (note that he hadn't read any of my books and he knows nothing of the 10th House, therefore he could not be influenced by my writings). To those who support the domification for the place of birth or usual residence I ask: what about the 12th House? And the car accidents?



Natal



BSR

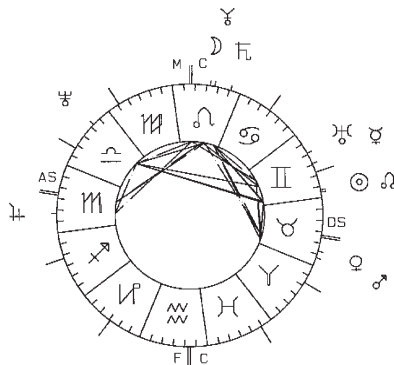


ASR, Salvador de Bahia

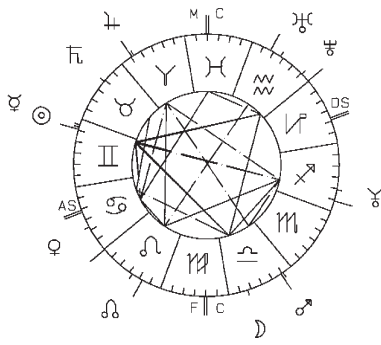
A less spectacular case, yet equally useful. In his BSR this native would have had an Ascendant in the 8th House and a Sun almost in the 12th. The native's 1999 ASR was relocated to Jerusalem with the Ascendant in the 6th, Venus almost conjunct to the Ascendant, and Jupiter close to the MC. One only concrete and considerable result: the native undertook an operation to the eyes and after many years he/she could get eventually rid of the glasses. His/her health and look benefit from that.

**Translator's Note**

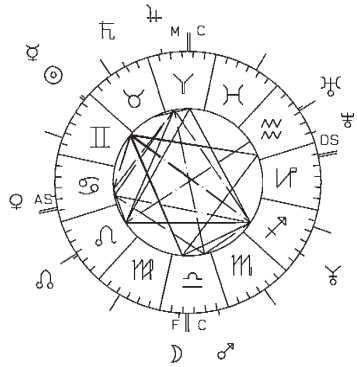
<sup>1</sup> Many hundreds of thousand Euros



Natal



BSR



ASR, Jerusalem



## A wedding at the Hawaii

It's stories like this what gives me fuel to continue my research despite the many words that some opponents spread on this subject. It is not the first time and I hope it isn't the last one; but every time it happens I feel a deep emotion together with a great joy and a little of proud, thinking that it's partly thanks to me if this young woman could have her longly caressed dream eventually come true. It's a classical story like many others: a young, not *very* young, woman with unlucky love affairs in her past.

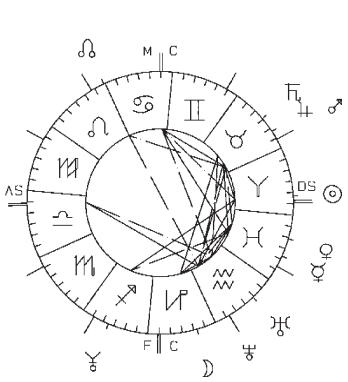
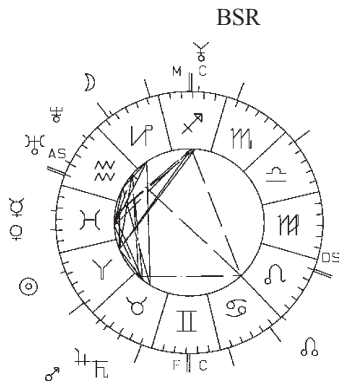
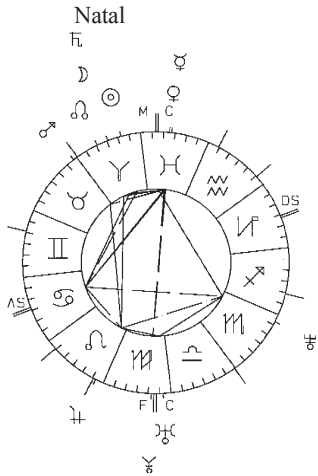
She's an Italian who lives abroad. She contacted me for her birthday of 1999 with a precise goal: to find a partner and get married. Last year we made a first attempt of an ASR, but – considering also the usual oscillation of the real time of birth – I immediately warned her that I had some doubts, for I wasn't quite satisfied with the sky we would obtain. We tried again this year.

The aimed location is far away, but it's a real dreamland: the Hawaii. Julia (it's another fictional name) left very optimistic and spent her birthday in one of the most enchanted places of Earth. This would be enough to justify a travel more expensive than usual - but something else happened. The very day of her birthday, Julia met a man almost of the same age of hers, whose birthday is also very close to hers. A strong sparkle burst between them.

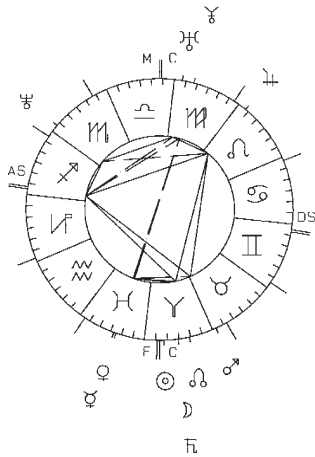
The score<sup>1</sup> of this couple is stratospherically high and the sparkle soon became a flame-thrower. Julia wrote to me half moved and half frightened asking me to suggest a close – *very* close – date for their marriage. She would eventually remain to live there forever. As I told before, my joy is huge.

Although I haven't spared on fraternal pieces of advice for Julia and her love story; I have warned them that this is only the first step, and that all the rest must be gained on the field, day by day; and that the conjugal life is the most difficult “race” we must carry out in our life; despite all this, I say, they should marry exactly in the very days of the publication of this issue of our quarterly. The most affectionate wishes to the newlyweds!

It's also interesting to note that the relocation of Julia's natal chart to Honolulu shows us a Sun on the Imum Coeli!

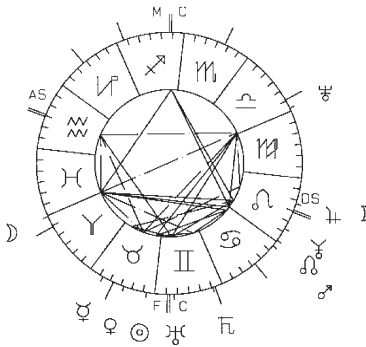


ASR, Honolulu

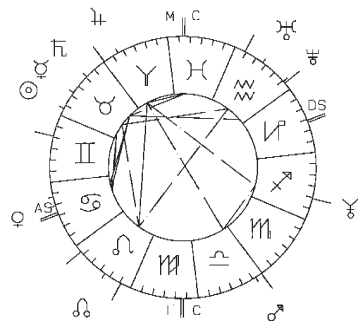


Natal, relocated to Honolulu

In the following case the BSR is the same as the ASR. In fact it's a SR aimed for the place where the native usually lives. The combination of 10th and 5th, as I repeated many times, it's definitely my favourite one. In this case we have left the Asc. in the 5th, Jupiter in the 10th, and a gorgeous Venus at the Ascendant. The results have been excellent. Just before the 1999 birthday, the native was facing a very deep professional crisis that was leading him/her to shut his/her business down after twenty years of activity. Suddenly, or I would say "miraculously", a few days after his/her birthday the native meets the owner of a financial company, who proposes him/her a new loan solution. Thanks to this formula he/she solves all his/her problems. Having improved his/her financial situation, he/she restructures his/her house and buys new pieces of furniture (Mars in the 4th). Moreover (Asc. in the 5th) two-three months after the birthday the subject – who's not married – gets devoted to cooking. He/she changes completely – in better – his/her own way of living, previously based upon lunch & dinner at the restaurant.

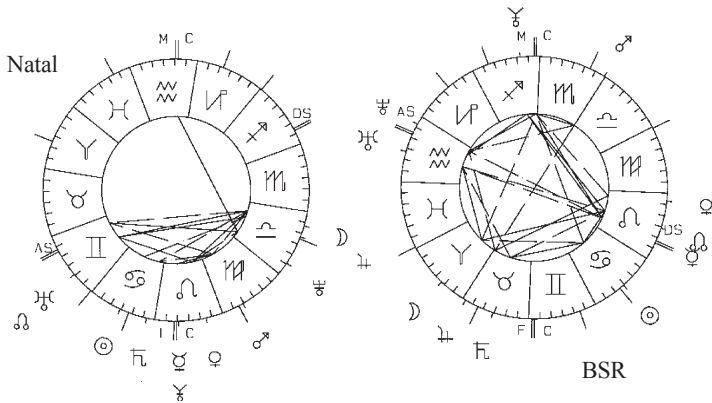


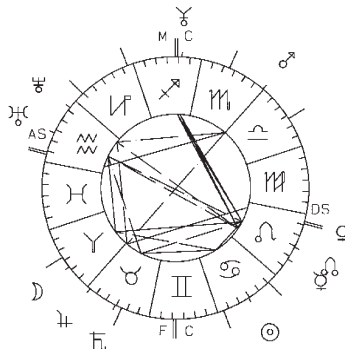
Natal



BSR & ASR

This native would have had an ugly BSR in 1999 with a Sun in the 6th House. The correction for Otranto is perfect: the Sun is placed deeper into the 5th House; Venus is on the Descendant; and the Asc. is in the 10th. Nonetheless the native rang to me about two months before the new birthday and was hardly able to speak. His/her voice was broken with emotion; he/she almost sobbed at the telephone. He/she swore that it was the worst year of his/her life because his/her partner was about to leave him/her. This is an event that would have caused panic to those who aren't deeply convinced – as I am – that you should trust the stars more than people. I said calmly: "Please, tell me the facts." It turned out that there were no fact – only anguish, fear, phobia without any reason. I said: "Has your partner told anything?" "No." "Have you uncovered some affair from your partner's side?" "No, I don't think so." "Have there been arguments, is there a pause in your sexual relationship?" "Not at all." What then? Then a Neptune transiting over the Medium Coeli, fed by a Neptune in the Solar 12th and the natal Neptune in the 5th House open even the doors of hell – in one's mind, I mean. As I'm writing these lines, the native's year is ending up very regularly without any problem in the couple or in any other field. Later on I discovered a detail that fully explains what caused all those fears: the native was firmly convinced that the total solar eclipse of 1999 had taken place exactly over his/her natal Venus, and some colleague astrologer had told him/her that this would have **certainly** caused the end of his/her relationship.

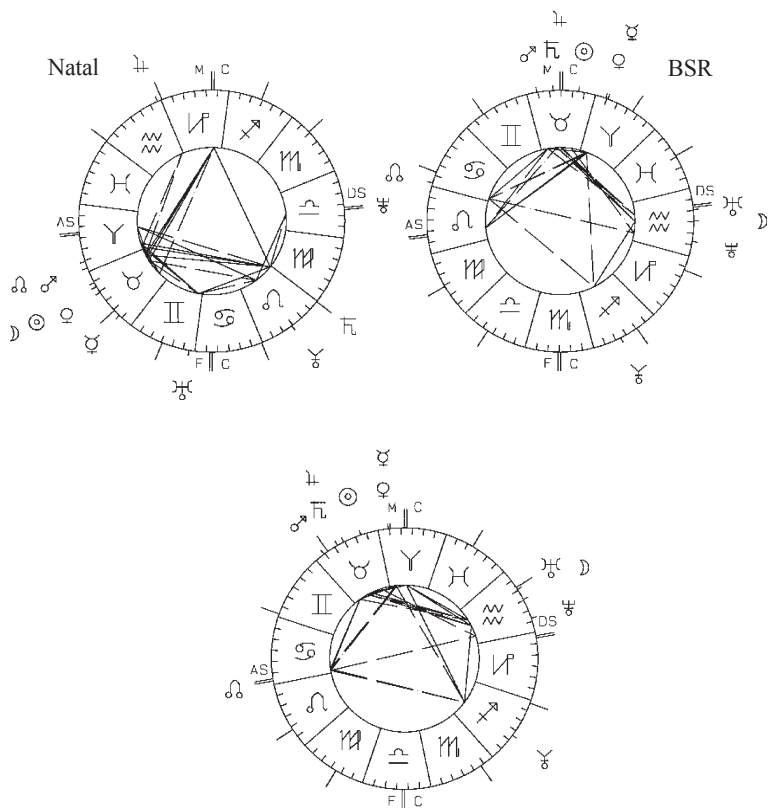




ASR, Otranto

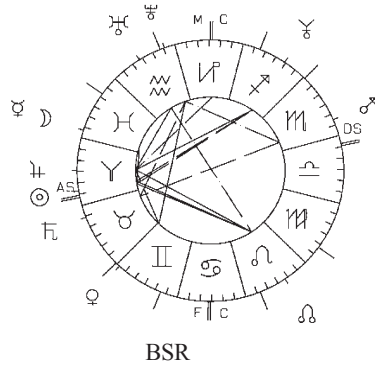
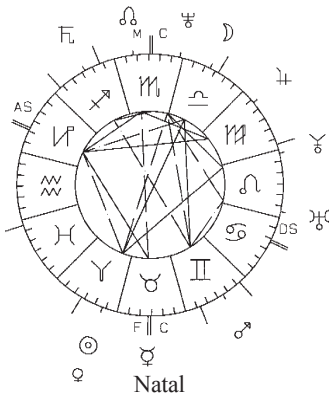
The following native had a very important documentation laying for years in some office of the town hall of his/her residence. It was an extremely important demand that could affect his/her professional destiny. Bureaucracy was knocking this person down leaving the least manoeuvring space to him/her. The native's BSR would have produced a stellium in the 6th House and the conjunction Saturn-Mars at the MC. Correcting it to Madeira would remove the former and would place the Sun, Venus and Jupiter into the 10th (Saturn would almost certainly fall into the 11th, since the time of birth is usually rounded off in advance). The day of the birthday, while the subject was spending a very happy anniversary in the enchanting Mediterranean isle, at that very instant of his/her Solar Return, in the town hall his/her claim was approved. His/her joy was so great that he/she wanted to come and visit me on the first available weekend to invite me to dinner in order to celebrate together that very happy event.





ASR, Madeira

The following charts refer to a man who did much sport in his life, also suffering from several (maybe thirteen) bone fractures in car accidents. In 1999, despite my recommendation, he didn't go away for his birthday and had a nightmarish year. He faced the separation from his partner; the students of a course he had organized made a kind of "uprising" against him; he faced many troubles in connection with officially stamped paper; and suffered from a strong depression. On the 26th of July he was involved in another car accident.



As I explained several times (in these pages too), the question of the distance to be kept from a dangerous cusp (such as the 1st, the 6th or the 12th) for the sake of caution may be different depending upon what we are talking about: the SR Ascendant in the natal Houses, or a SR planet<sup>2</sup> in the Houses of the same Solar chart. Let me focus onto the former case, i.e. at how many degrees of distance it is good to keep the SR Ascendant compared with the cusps that my astrological school judges very problematic ones. It seems a very easy problem but it is actually a one-billion-dollar question! I heard somebody say: “To be safe, I always keep 5 degrees!” I personally don’t find it a very wise solution; for if the excessive distance taken as a protective shield does imply the defence from the possible danger we are talking about, it also invalidates a long sequel of applicational hypotheses. We might well take in consideration the “5 degrees” solution if the world were made only by territories without any water (it would be a disaster); thus we could reach any point of the surface with any ground transportation. Unluckily (or luckily, depending from the point of view) the geographical situation of our planet is very different. No one who wants to organize several ASR’s can afford working with such a global range because of the unfeasibility of organizing most of these journeys. I know you are already wondering, then, what is the correct operational margin to operate within. This is exactly why I was talking about a one-billion-dollar question. Could you give me any bibliographical reference on this subject? Those who talk about SR’s

apparently knowing one name only in this field – whom they never hail enough enthusiastically – could they tell me if this person has ever elaborated this problem? Evidently not, since his only book on this subject doesn't mention a single ASR performed or that he had pushed anybody to perform, even though he admits that it is possible to aim Solar Returns from a theoretical point of view.

As for myself, I had to face a difficult reality in which everything was still undiscovered. For many years I kept a distance of three degrees without experiencing any accident at all on many-many cases (I'm speaking of hundreds of individuals who had such a problem). Nevertheless, from time to time I found myself in the condition of being forced to reduce this safety margin if I wanted to have my client land on a travelable location, in the geographical and territorial meaning of this term. Thus I reduced to 2 1/2 degrees after many years of attempts, and I stuck to this new margin for many following years. Even then, I never faced any remarkable trouble related with this reduced margin, which I considered to be my extreme limit of operation. After that, I dared more and I set the margin below the 2 degrees. This happened about three years ago. With this new value I have had 2 or 3 accidents, which from a later examination proved to be almost certainly connected with a too close proximity to the cusps of the dangerous Houses of Solar Return – the 1st, the 6th, and the 12th. After thirty years of trials and thousands of examined cases, of getting wise after the event; but also embittered for having unwillingly caused tough years to somebody; I've therefore come to the conclusion that it is possible to operate starting from 2 1/2 degrees or more – *never* under this score.

I know very well that many people will declare that this is obvious, and that they have been aware of it since they were baptized or circumcised; but of course even in this case – like in the case of the incredible declarations of some people about the truth of ASR's after having condemned me for decades because of my method – there is a quantity of printed matter that forms a piece of evidence. Printed matter can never be deleted; what concerns the past (the recent one, at least) cannot be deleted.

#### **Translator's Notes**

<sup>1</sup> The author refers to their *sinastric* score.

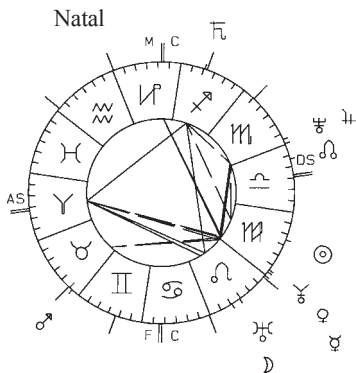
<sup>2</sup> In astrology, the term "planets" usually includes the Sun and the Moon

## Ever magic Lisbon!

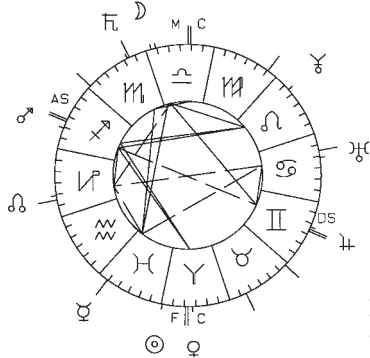
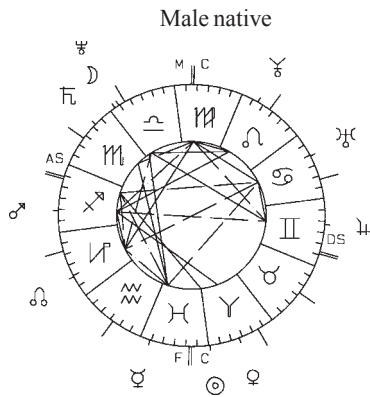
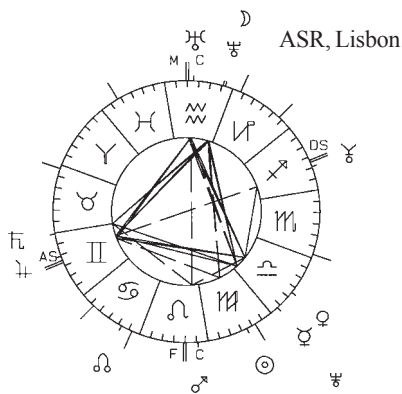
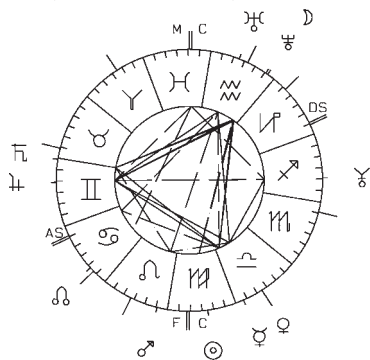
This female from Sardinia had been suffering from a very hard situation for two years. She was separated from her partner who had committed sexual abuse on one of her daughters, and she was engaged in a very difficult and expensive court case. She was in serious financial troubles and for two years she hadn't received any kind of love. Above all, she was strongly depressed and she had lost her determination to live. Since I couldn't activate strong and positive values of 10th, I suggested her to go to Lisbon in September 1999, where I would place Jupiter onto the Ascendant, and Venus and Mercury into the 5th house. I also considered that her time of birth, like it usually happens with almost the totality of the cases, was probably rounded in advance. Therefore I thought that the Sun would be in the 5th too. Still, for what I'm pointing out in this chapter, we can consider that in the 5th House would be placed the conjunction Venus-Mercury alone.

Well, the lady arrived to Lisbon and the day of her birthday – “5, 10 minutes after my birthday” – she met a man with whom that very night began a love affair. This wiped her depression away and projected her into a new dimension: the dimension that we all experience whenever we fall in love. Another remarkable detail is in the man's natal chart: if relocated to the lady's natal town, Jupiter is positioned exactly over the Descendant.

I would like to seize this opportunity to call your attention to the really amazing results I keep on collecting whenever an aimed birthday is spent in the capital of Portugal. I believe it's a personal fact that I'm not able to explain. It should not awaken a similar optimism in my colleagues who make use of this technique. In fact more and more often I get the visit of people “crying” after an aimed birthday in Lisbon, which had been “prescribed” to them without any valid justification from an objective point of view.



**BSR (Base Solar Return)**



**Male native's natal chart, relocated**

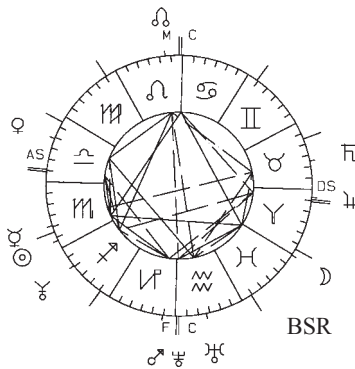
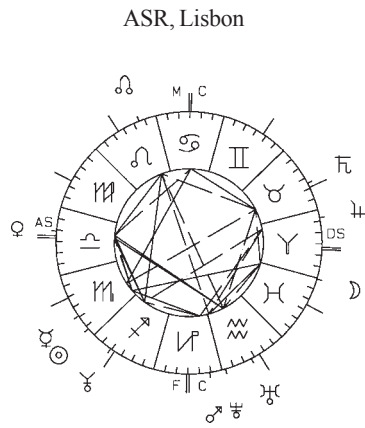
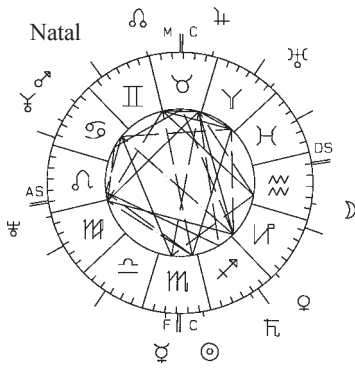
Once again Lisbon, a birthday in 1999. The subject is about 72 years old, from Liguria. That year he would have the following transits: Uranus and Neptune in the 6th House; Saturn in the 10th, square to the Ascendant and opposed to the Sun. Health problems could be expected. This is the synthetic report one year after his aimed birthday. He had excellent health conditions, except for a slight depression. Two of his former tenants spilled the beans to the Customs and Excise officers who handed him over a record of income tax evasion that would probably cost him a ten-million Liras<sup>1</sup> fee. A further 3-million Liras<sup>2</sup> fee for tax evasion arrived from a comb check in the town. Further 4 million Liras<sup>3</sup> for not having abided by the Italian law on rental fees – still in connection with the a.m. tenants. Leaving the flat, the very same tenants caused damages to the windows, the floor, the inner doors, and the furniture: additional 5 millions Liras<sup>4</sup>. In another tenant's home the ceiling collapsed in part, without injuring anybody. In another one tenant's home the ceiling of the bathroom partly collapsed: no injury to anybody. At another tenant's place there was an attempt of burglary that caused the partial destruction of the main entrance, which had to be replaced with an armoured door. All these bukliding works caused the native troubles and difficulties. In the a.m. flat two boilers had to be replaced. The façade of the building of the native's house at the seaside was renewed. These works caused him massive expenses for all the year. On the other side, he earned a great amount of money from a heritage coming from a far cousin of his (from a plot of agricultural land that suddenly had been declared building area). A neighbour of his was planning to open three illegal windows on a wall; not without any trouble this action was detained in time. His partner got a prestigious job. Both appeared on TV. Both the native and his partner bought a new car; one was a very expensive model they had been desiring for ages. This summarizing report was written down a few days before the native's anniversary of 2000.

My comment? Simply spectacular!

I would like to ask to those who claim that it isn't possible to prove the efficiency of an aimed birthday "because we don't know what it would have happened if the native wouldn't have left": how could *you* explain the a.m. events starting from the Base Solar Return? Apart from the very strong protection towards health

performed by Venus exactly on the Ascendant, and apart from the confirmation of Jupiter in the 7th House acting as a “bistable relay” exactly as described in my handbooks (see *Transiti e Rivoluzioni solari*, Armenia); and even neglecting the massive flow of money (both expenses and income) that could be explained also on the ground of the BSR; but – how could you justify a Mars in the 3rd House while this sector of the native’s life had recorded only two extremely pleasant events (i.e. the purchase of two excellent new cars)? Isn’t it true that the “blood” flowing all the year long had been in connection with estate, tenants, building works, and neighbours?

Or do you prefer to think – as a Milanese colleague of mine claims, having not very clear ideas about the Solar Returns – that I simply invent these examples?

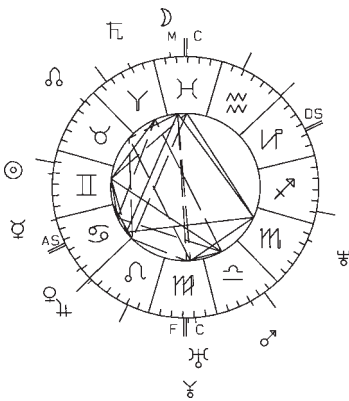


Athens, 1999. The native from Lazio would have got a BSR with an Ascendant in the natal 9th House and the Sun placed on the Imum Coeli of Solar. Aiming the SR to Athens I would place the Asc. into the 10th, Venus into the 5th and the Sun into the 3rd House. Shortly before the birthday of 2000 I received the native's synthetic and satisfactory report: "...about my ASR in Athens, with your suggestion **you've really hit the bull's eye** – I've experienced a GORGEOUS Ascendant in the natal 10th House, which brought several positive events to me:

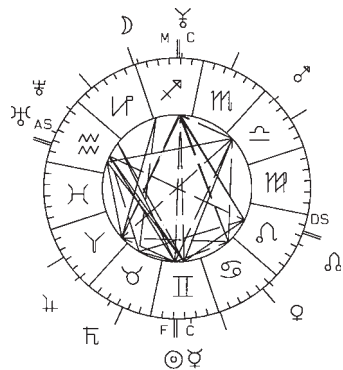
- From the occupational point of view, it's been a very satisfactory year with really unexpected events.
- For the first time (*really* the first time!) in my life I've had my first, intense love affair – although it is extremely unstable at present.
- I bought a car on which – for the first time in my life – I've made a quite long journey to Tuscany, driving totally alone, what I had never done before..."

I find any further remark superfluous.

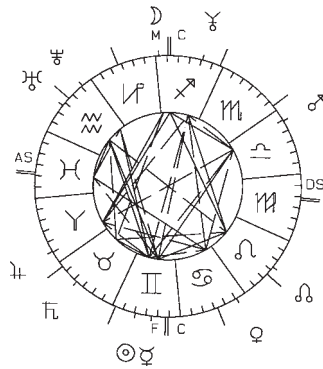
Natal



BSR







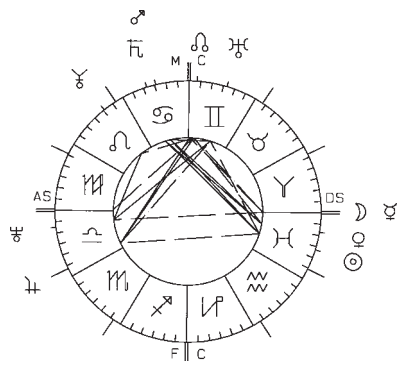
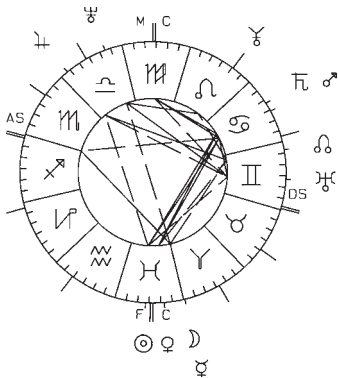
ASR, Athens

This is a quite easy case of Astrogeografy, though interesting anyway. This is a native from Piedmont who married a person from New York City. In the natal chart relocated for the Big Apple, as you can see, we've got a strict conjunction of Moon and Mercury at the Descendant. If – as it is very likely – his/her time of birth is rounded in advance, just like almost the totality of the declared times of birth, then also Venus is conjunct to the Descendant.

**Translator's Notes**

- <sup>1</sup> About 5,000 •
- <sup>2</sup> Ca. 1,500 •
- <sup>3</sup> Ca. 2,000 •
- <sup>4</sup> Ca. 2,600 •

Natal

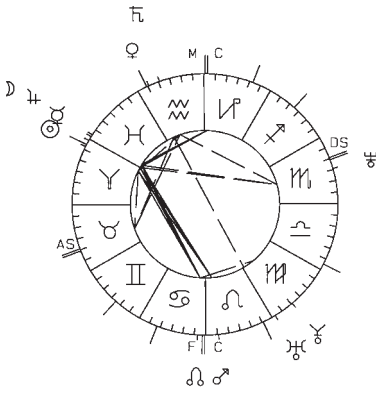


Natal chart, relocated

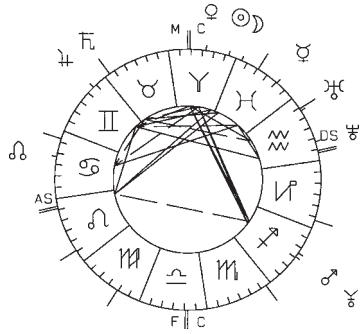
## An incredible story

This woman's story is incredible. I met her in January 2001. She is a housewife from a small town of Marche, yet her look and her manners seem to suggest other geographical origin. She's a charming, tall, thin woman with a royal attitude; a very fascinating person.

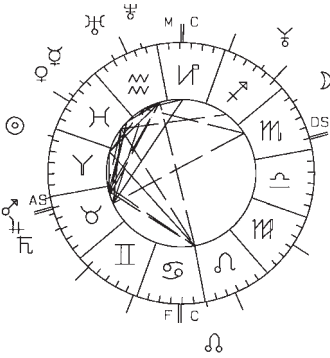
The previous year she remained home, thus "treating herself" to a horrible Solar Return with Sun & Ascendant in the 12th house, and four (say *four*) planets in the 12th and the 1st; not to mention Mars, strictly conjunct to the Ascendant. She got pregnant: both pregnancy and delivery went fine as well as the relationship with her husband. The only problem was caused by the superfluous 35 kgs she had gained during the pregnancy. Thus her weight had become almost an obsession: she wanted to lose weight at any cost since then. So far it might look like many other women's story, but it is not. This beautiful lady lost 25 kgs, and when she visited me I found that she could not look better, as far as her physical was concerned. Even so she thought otherwise: she had started to believe that she was awkward and even worse: ugly. End of the story: for months this lady was ashamed of her own body and doesn't want her husband to see her naked; she stopped having any sexual intercourse with him; exasperated, his husband had promoted divorce. I suggested her an aimed birthday in Petropavlovsk in order to place Venus into the 5th House, but I'm not sure she would go there.



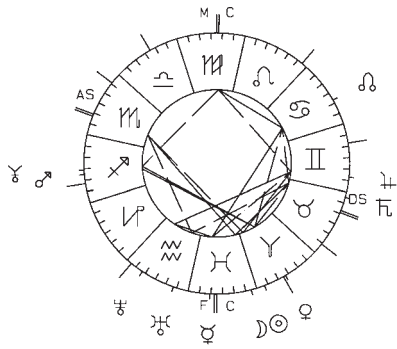
Natal



BSR 2001



BSR 2000



ASR 2001, Petropavlovsk

## When an Aimed Solar Return is bad

Many times one thinks that the clearest examples of the performance of an Aimed Solar Return (ASR) are the ones with a happy end, whereas I believe that it is exactly the contrary. In fact it is not by boasting the obtained success that you can plead the cause of this practice, whereas you can do it exactly the other way: by proving that a bad ASR can cause even considerable damage. As we have explained several times in these pages, we have no interest in making proselytes or convincing the sceptics. We simply follow our own route pretending to address only to those who trust this method. For them then – and only for them – I propose two quite neat cases with which it is possible to prove how an ASR can do wrong, as well as doing well.

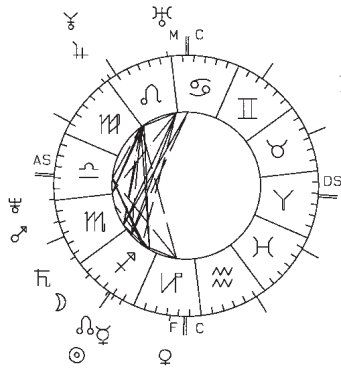
In my book *Astrologia Attiva* published by Ed. Mediterranee, I reported the case of Sandro, a male native from Veneto who suffered from a total financial collapse after a bad ASR; the reasons of which are detailed in that book, hence I won't repeat them.

Let us consider now the situation of an entrepreneur of Central Italy who went to spend his birthday in Sophia in December 1999. I *had* to have him travel to there – and not anywhere else – but I also recommended him very warmly to beware of any legal trouble and any kind of small or big conflicts.

Things went tragically for him. A few hours after his birthday – like if it had been written down in a handbook – he was robbed. Let me say that – up to certain extent – he provoked the aggressions himself because he was strolling by in the Bulgarian capital wearing a very expensive fur coat, a famous brand watch, and a massive golden necklace.

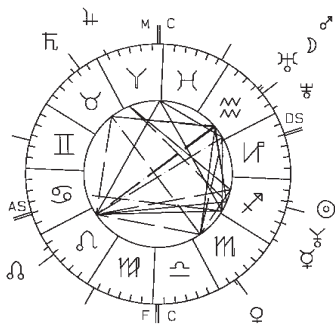
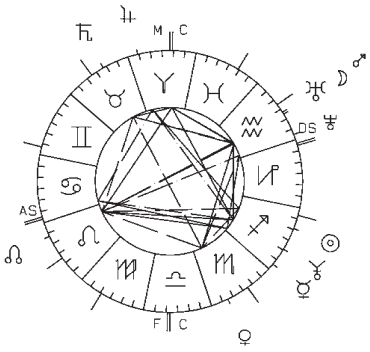
He was attacked and left half-naked on the street, in the snow. Nonetheless that was not the worst, for he was literally impounded by local police because he was found without passport, papers and money. Only after several days one of his relatives succeeded in picking him up and taking him home. During the year he had also

a tax control from the Customs and Excise officers, who released him a quite tough record of fine.  
 Do you see any of these events in his BSR (Base Solar Return, the one cast for Italy)?



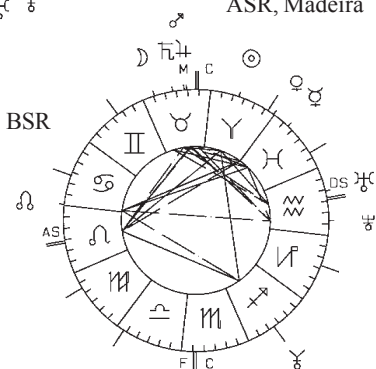
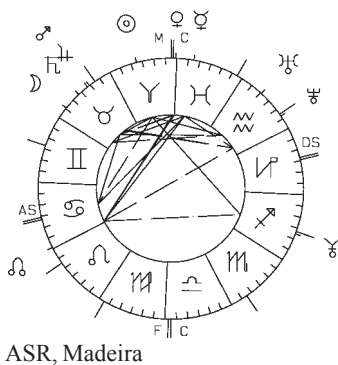
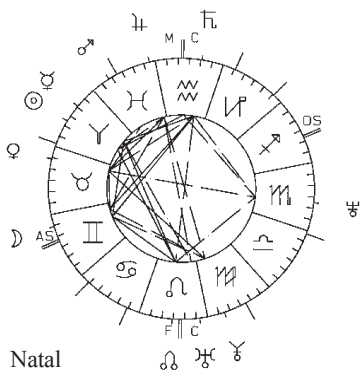
Natal chart

ASR 1999, Sophia



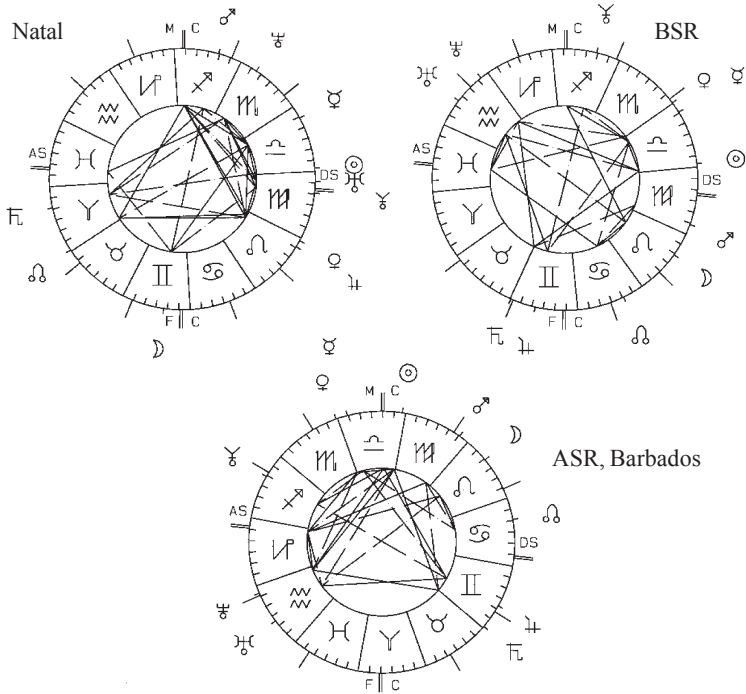
BSR

This is a brilliant professional male from Emilia who spent his aimed birthday of 2000 in Madeira. A few hours after the Return, his former girlfriend started a persistent persecution against him, by means of phone menaces and similar. In the same period he faced other considerable arguments, e.g. with his current partner and with her son. Do you see any trace of it in his BSR? I would like to underline that in spring 2000 I chose this kind of SR sky for several people, thus I had the opportunity to study that celestial configuration in depth. Thus I could ascertain that the strong concentration in the 11th house with Mars and Saturn not only meant loss of friends, break-ups of good-old friendly relationships, mourning and/or risk of death for the dear ones – things that I had already noticed and classified decades earlier. This time I realized that it expressed itself on a higher octave: with really widespread hostilities from the fellow human beings. For example, for a dear lady whom I've been following for years (the owner of one of the best Italian restaurants), it expressed itself with her cook's very bad heart attack. Her cook had a heart surgical operation and resigned for bad health (consequently, the lady's enterprise suffered from a serious loss). But it also caused – just to give one example more – the hostility of the local police officers of the area where the restaurant is located: they just started spreading fines to all the drivers who stopped their vehicles in the nearness. Even so I do not repent for having made this choice; if I met similar situation in the future I think I'd try to reconstruct the same celestial geometry, which proved very helpful from other points of view. For you must never forget that your task is not to cast the perfect ASR, but to choose the least naughty situation for that year.



The following charts refer to an officer of a local authority who spent his aimed birthday in Barbados. Opposite to the previous examples, this one could be taken as a reference point for its gorgeous SR Ascendant in the natal 10th House. In this case too, I supposed that the declared time of birth might have been rounded in advance. Thus I chose to have the Sun conjunct to the Medium Coeli in Gauquelin zone; and Saturn far from the 6th – where I placed Jupiter instead. The result has been as sparkling as fireworks: tasks of responsibility fell upon the native’s shoulder without any effort from him; he also received exaggerated compliments and his chiefs invited him to take on more important tasks, even to play key roles in his organization. It was an apotheosis. He couldn’t explain himself what was happening. Whenever he made a remark loudly everybody replied that he was a genius who should advance

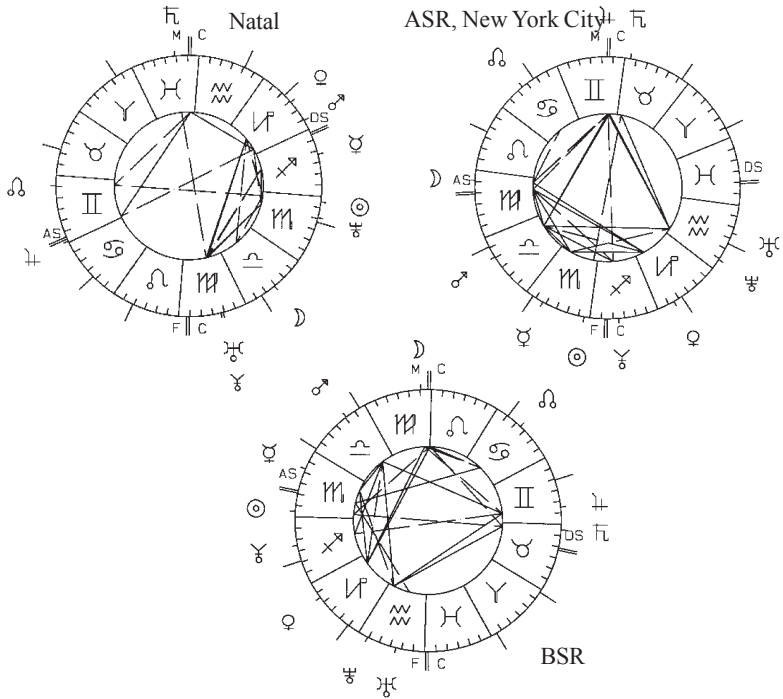
in his post. On the sentimental ground, the year was producing a real disaster. Do you find any trace of this situation in his BSR, with a Mars in the 6th and an Ascendant in the 12th?



NatalI keep this case among my best memories since I have been dealing with astrology. It's the case of a 35-year-old man from one of insular Italy, who wasn't able to find out his own way. He was confused about his own future; he wasn't able to have an aim. He had tried to attend a course for shop assistants in Northern Italy, but in vain. I recommended him an aimed birthday 2000 in New York City, with a magnificent Jupiter on the Medium Coeli and an Ascendant in the natal 4th House. I also suggested him to attend a course for professional nurses. "Nurse??? You mean doctor?" –



said her mother, alarmed, paying me a visit after my piece of advice to her son. “No, Madam: I mean *nurse*. Let’s keep our feet on the ground. Would you like to enrol your son to Medicine at the age of 35, while you’ve already seen that he’s not really willing to study? Your son has got astrological values of 6th and a fairly excellent manual ability: I tell you he’s a born nurse; he could perfectly find himself in this field.” The young man eventually followed my advice and travelled to New York City. He also followed my other piece of advice: with a couple of phone rings he succeeded in getting enrolled into a course for professional nurses (university degree) in a city of Veneto. I met him a few weeks ago: he’s doing very well. He likes the subject; he’s applying himself very hard, for he’s aware that in any case he must not take heavy exams on the faculty of Medicine. I think he has found out his own way.



## Appendix

**Dear Signor** *Ciro Discepolo*;

I've read with great pleasure your editorial and your articles in the last issue of 1999 of your journal *Ricerca '90*. I would like to express a few facts about your Astrology, which I think I can consider as a remedy and a benefit for all the human race.

All the same it seems to me that I've determined a hindrance that prevents the comprehension and the estimation of the significance of the "Aimed Solar Returns", precisely in the example reported in your book *Astrologia Attiva*.

Reading your praise of escape, in fact, I had a kind of refusal "under my skin", but I went on reading trying to overcome it. Later on I kept a second-hand consideration of the subject and I realized that I had judged your work superficially, having granted it the same importance than the above mentioned simile.

I don't know Laborit's works, so I cannot say much about his writings. In the metaphor of the fleeing vessel the simile cannot certainly be extended to the helmsman piloting it according to the same notion formally determined of escape. In fact, if we can accept in a metaphorical meaning that a sailing ship "flee", we cannot say the same of the man who turns its course round not to succumb to the tempest. Struggle for life is not an escape: it's the wish to be there – to still be there. In this case it is therefore a case of love for life – not an escape from life.

How can an escape from death be judged as an escape from life? I would like to express even clearer. Let us consider a man who performs a robbery and after that he really flees away from the crime scene by car.

Here we have a man on the run.

Still, one cannot say that he would flee twice when he steers at a curve, or "three times" when he steers again at the second curve, and so on. He simply flees because he doesn't want to go to jail.

Full stop.

What I mean is that one cannot accept that a driver flees if he operates on the steering wheel before a curve.

Therefore I believe that any adoptable remedy to soothe the human suffering is not an escape, particularly in the extent that it is done with love.

Also from the point of view of the knowledge of karma, things are not different.

Those who steal money accumulate negative karma. This is not certainly true for those who earn money honestly, e.g. looking for pieces of truth to soothe ones' own – or the others' – evil.

Those who use the word “karma” or “reincarnation” in an ideological or superficial (if not cynical) way might be able to see a suffering man and pass judgement: “You deserve it; it’s your karma; it proceeds from your previous incarnation.”

In reality, it is my opinion that one cannot agree with such a point of view – unless it comes from the subhuman which lies inside each of us. It’s the “cunny” friends of Job who basically spread similar verdicts (see the chapter on karma in my book *Il sacro simbolo dell’arcobaleno*).

Your *Active Astrology* seems to me then – I say it once again – a remedy to the social evil.

Please find enclosed Steiner’s lecture *Free Will and karma in the Future of Human Evolution. Light and Love*. After reading this lecture it will be clear to you that, in the reincarnationist hypothesis, as a consequence of the karma contracted in a previous life, one markedly looks for the opportunities to contract different diseases or to run into certain “misfortunes” (“6th, 12th Houses etc.”). The purpose of this is to attain – by overcoming them and by performing the self-redeveloping and balancing forces – the forces that altogether lead us forward in the route of life. This does not exclude that remedies and therapies as expressions of love (Christic impulse) are themselves tools required to this purpose:

*“If we wrote the Sanskrit word karma using the Hebrew alphabet and we compared it, using the same procedure, with the Greek word Christós, we would get the following sequence of letters:*

כאדמא  
כריסטוס

Karma  
Christós

*The sum of the numeric values of the former and the geometric values of the latter gives the same numeric result. This is quite amazing and it seems to indicate affinity between the two terms. [...] Really, the Lamb is considered, through the sacrifice of Golgotha, the overcomer of karma, and this comes out also from the ancient knowledge of the Rose Cross Order. [...] Christ was in fact called in the Rosicrucian language: "Lord of the karma".* (op. cit. page 76 and following).

As a conclusion, I dare advise you to change the introduction to the *Active Astrology* from *Praise of escape* into *Love for life*.  
Yours faithfully,

**Nereo Villa**

Castell'Arquato (Piacenza)

(Published on *Ricerca* '90, nr. 42)

**Dear Rossella; Dear Ciro;**

I'll try to explain what leads me to judge that the technique of Aimed Solar Returns (ASR's) is a useful and efficient tool. It is obvious that what follows reflects only my own personal conviction. The notions I'm going to express may not meet your consent, and they might not be considered valid by other people who make use of the ASR's. My contribution won't be short: forewarned is forearmed. I would like to call your attention to the following passage from the book-interview with Marie-Louise von Franz *Il mondo dei sogni*, Red ed., Como, Italy, 1990.

«Doctor von Franz, do you believe in predestination? Do dreams indicate that our existence is predetermined?».

«Many human lives proceed within pre-existing models. One was born man or woman, black or white, in a certain place and not elsewhere, from a certain family and not from another. There is a preconstituted model but there's also a margin, a kind of freedom. If it were not so, we could put the therapy aside and come to the conclusion that each of us carries out his/her own model of life; and that nothing can be done about it. Reading our own model; making it conscious; interpreting the dreams, we don't escape from

our destiny: we can simply impress a positive direction to it. There's a difference between consenting to our own destiny and carrying it out positively from one hand; and denying it and suffering from it against our own will from the other hand. Thus we can reach the conclusion that even if certain predestination does exist, it is not absolute. This has nothing to do with the fatalist notion of an Allah who decides on everything so that everything goes the way He has settled on. We can change things, and this gives sense to therapy. We can change things by understanding the model of our existence, thus avoiding some of their negative consequences. We can give our destiny a really more positive turn.»

These are the words of Madam von Franz. As you can see, this passage contains an explicit call for consciousness, for the conscious elaboration of what the unconscious announces us through the symbol – be it oneiric or of any other kind. Why does this work? It can be said very briefly: we build our own destiny – partly at least, but this is the same as admitting that freedom does exist – with our own hands. About this fact let me call your attention to the enclosed file containing some of my considerations on the issue of free will. It is a passage taken from my work on Indian astrology published time ago on *Ricerca* '90 nr. 24 (October 1995). The more we work on the symbol, the more we get conscious. The more we are conscious, the more we keep our life in our hands. The more we keep our life in our hands, the more we are free to impress to our life positive turns and tonalities. For a conscious and aware person the ASR is equivalent to be working on the symbol. Let's say that Mars represents an undifferentiated (and messy) vital stamina. Let us be aware that our inner Mars and the vital stamina (which, undifferentiated, may lead to sterilely aggressive attitudes) could become an energy well directed towards a useful and constructive aim. *Ergo*: why should I suffer from the prospect of a car accident (if this is the indication astrologically arguable from the yearly chart, which possibly has got its own foundation in a predisposition coming out from the natal chart) when I can attend a course of sculpture instead? I could obtain the same result by removing the afflicted Mars from the 3rd Solar House and “moving” it – say – into the 5th. Evidently, this requires prudence and a high level of consciousness. I mean, I must know exactly what I'm doing: the journey must be the result of a process

– not an act of superstition. I don't know whether *Ciro* agrees with my view of facts. In fact, I tend to narrow the field of action of the application of the technique of ASR's, hence I limit its usage and I don't extend it to the generality of cases. In other words I am afraid that a less conscious (if not superstitious) usage of them from some inexperienced consulting people may lead to results little compatible with their own aspirations. Those who consult the astrologer may be expecting to see the manna falling down from Heaven for the only fact of having been "relocated"; they should have rolled up their sleeves instead, in order to work seriously and hard on the solution of their own problems. As a conclusion, I consider the journey as a starting point, not as a finish line. I hope I succeeded in explaining my point without lighting up any flame. I don't pretend to own any truth; I've merely expressed my own opinion. ASR's themselves are very useful; still, maybe they are not for everybody. Just like astrology, by the way.

### **Enzo Barillà**

(Published on the Internet on the mailing list "Astrea" <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Astrea>)



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*A collection of writings on the ASR's (Aimed Solar Returns, that is the so-called "aimed birthdays"), a technique that forms the foundation of the Active Astrology, the school founded by the Author, which gathers hundreds of followers, not only in Italy. Mr. Discepolo reviews the most frequent doubts and objections of those who begin putting in practice this technique, and he tries to answer the many questions that this subject can certainly arouse, especially among the non-experts. This text is enriched with several practical cases that give concrete examples to the theories exposed.*



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