Solar Return

for Michelle Obama

Cast for 17 January 2026

A sample reading from Mike Astrology. This is the complete report a customer receives, generated by the same engine — nothing here was written for this page.

Birth data: 17 January 1964, 19:00, Chicago, Illinois, USA.

About the birth time: 19:00 is the time reported in public astrology databases, not a time taken from a birth certificate. Houses and the rising sign depend on the exact minute, so house-based sections should be read as the chart *as commonly published* rather than as settled fact.

This is an astrological reading, not reporting. It describes a chart. It is not a claim about what Michelle Obama is actually like, and she has no connection to Mike Astrology.

This reading is cast for a fixed date: 2026-01-17. A forecast describes a moment, so this one is a snapshot rather than something that stays current — your own would be cast for today.

It is not a prediction about this person's life. It describes what the sky is doing against a birth chart. Nothing here is a claim about what has happened or will happen to them.

Exact return: 2026-01-17 02:04:58 UTC

What a Solar Return Is

Around every birthday the Sun comes back to the exact place it stood when you took your first breath. Not near it — to the arc-second, the same degree and the same minute of the same sign it held at the hour you were born. The moment it arrives is your solar return, and it rarely lands on your birthday party. It can fall the day before, or in the small hours, or halfway through an ordinary afternoon while your mind is on something else entirely. That instant, wherever it catches you, is when your year actually begins.

The chart cast for that moment is what this reading is built from, and it is worth understanding exactly what it is before you read a word of it, because it is almost always misunderstood. IT IS NOT A SECOND BIRTH CHART. Your natal chart is permanent. The sign rising when you were born, the houses your planets fell into, the aspects between them — none of that changes, this year or ever. That is who you are, and no return chart edits it.

A solar return is something lighter and more temporary. It is the stage set built around you for the next twelve months: the lighting, the backdrop, which doors are open and which are shut, which rooms of your life are crowded this year and which are quiet. You are the same actor. The set has been struck and rebuilt. That distinction matters practically. A difficult return chart does not mean a difficult person,

and it does not carry forward — at your next birthday the set changes again. It means this particular twelve months asks something specific of you. Equally, a bright return does not hand you a good year; it opens doors that still have to be walked through.

The chart runs birthday to birthday, and it pays no attention to the calendar. If a fresh start has ever seemed to arrive for you somewhere around your birthday rather than when the calendar says so — a chapter of your life that opened near one birthday and closed near the next — this is the cycle you were feeling. One more thing before the reading proper. The return chart is cast for wherever you ARE at that moment, not where you were born, so the same solar return read from two different cities gives two different rising signs and two different sets of houses. Astrologers have argued for centuries over which place to use, and they still do. This reading uses the place you gave us.

Three things will help you read it. The themes do not all arrive on the birthday. What you are reading is the outline of twelve months, and its parts tend to come alive when a transiting planet, or one of the year's own progressions, touches a sensitive point. A chapter that seems quiet at the start may prove the most important by the end, so a placement that means nothing to you on a first reading earns a second look later on.

Where a placement can go an easier way or a harder one, those are not two fates. They are the same energy met from fear or met from courage, and reading the year in advance is how you catch the harder version early enough to choose the other. And this year's chart always sits on top of your permanent one. When the reading says a return planet lands in one of your natal houses, it means this year's temporary set has been built in a room of your life that is always there, and both are in play at once. What follows starts with the costume the year hands you and where its light falls, then works outward through everything else the chart holds, one placement at a time.

The Year in Brief

Your Sun returns to its birth degree at 02:04 UTC on 17 January 2026, and the year read below runs from that moment to the next return.

- **The costume:** Virgo rising, opening onto your natal first house.
- **The spotlight:** Sun in the fifth house of the year.
- **Where the year grows:** Jupiter in the eleventh house of the year.
- **Where it asks for work:** Saturn in the seventh house of the year.
- **On the angles:** Uranus on the Midheaven.

The Year's Costume

The sign rising at the exact moment of your return becomes the costume you wear for the next twelve months. It is not who you are — your birth chart settled that and does not revise it — but it is the filter you meet the world through this year, and the way the world meets you first. A quiet person can be handed a loud costume. A cautious one can spend a year being read as bold. That gap between the permanent self and the borrowed manner is where most of the year's friction lives, and most of its opportunity too, because a costume lets you try something your ordinary character would not have volunteered for. There is a second thing to read here, and it matters as much: whatever house of your BIRTH chart that rising sign occupies is the department of your life the year comes in through. The sign says how the year looks. The natal house it lands on says which door it used.

The return Ascendant in Virgo meets the year with a careful, practical eye: the manner you bring into every room this year is exact, useful and quietly critical. The year asks for skills that make the daily round run without friction, and you have them to hand. For the next twelve months you are the one who finds the thing everybody else has given up looking for. A clear surface, a morning that runs to plan and the knack of spotting a small fault before it becomes a large one do more for you this year than any grand gesture. A small thing done properly this year will matter more than a large thing done adequately, and you

will be the only person who ever knows which was which.

The care turns on you through delay: a mess that outlasts your patience, and a standard so high that starting badly feels worse than not starting at all. The year asks for some slack, and for humour about your own systems. Worn all year, this manner teaches people to assume you have noticed. They expect you to catch the error, hold the standard, and mention it, and they are faintly disappointed when you let something go. So you end up caring about the detail on everybody's behalf, including the details nobody thanked you for.

The line to keep: the mess you tolerate this year will bother you more than it bothers anybody else.

With the return Ascendant falling in your natal first house, the year starts at your own front door. Of the twelve rooms the year could open onto, it has picked the room of self, so the starting point is you: how you hold yourself, what you want next, the fresh start you keep circling. The attention pulls inward, onto what is actually there under the presentation. This will be a year about you in a way that is not entirely comfortable, and people will keep handing you the decision when you would rather they made it. Clarity about what you are for arrives without ceremony, and it changes how the ordinary days get spent. There will be stretches of not knowing which version of yourself is the real one, and they belong to the same process rather than being a

detour from it. Leave the verdict on them for later, and let them sit alongside everything else rather than putting them away.

The line to keep: a year about you is not the same as a year that goes your way.

That house of your birth chart already holds your Uranus and your Pluto.

Surprise is part of the package: your natal Uranus sits in the house now activated. Rules you have followed in this area may suddenly feel wrong, and the question of freedom becomes pressing. The months favour chosen experiments over upheaval.

The line to keep: with Uranus already here, change one thing on purpose before events change it for you.

The theme goes deep, because your natal Pluto sits in this house. Power, control and transformation are in play, and something in this corner of life may end so that something truer can begin.

The line to keep: Pluto already works here, so let finished things go rather than guarding them.

Met from fear, a Virgo costume turns critical: of others, of yourself, of every detail that is not yet right. Worry becomes a full-time

occupation, perfectionism stalls work that was ready to ship, and service turns into a martyrdom nobody asked for. Worn clearly, the year is given to usefulness and repair. You improve your health, your systems and your skills, help where help is genuinely needed, and take a quiet satisfaction in work done properly. The year rewards the small correction made every day far more than the grand overhaul planned for later, and by its end the difference shows.

What would be good enough, if you let it be finished? A Virgo costume sharpens your eye and your standards, and the better use of that precision is useful work, not criticism of yourself.

The Spotlight

If the rising sign is the costume, the Sun is the spotlight, and a spotlight does not fall everywhere on the stage. It falls on one place. That place is where the year asks you to show up, spend your will, and be seen — and it is the single most reliable thing a return chart tells you. The Sun returns to the same degree it occupied at your birth, every year, without fail; what changes is which house of the new chart that degree lands in. So the question is never what the Sun is doing. It is where the light has been pointed this time. Read it alongside the costume. When the two agree, the year has a single clear architecture and very little argument in it. When they disagree — a loud costume over a private spotlight, or

the reverse — the year asks you to hold two things at once, and the holding is the work.

Return Sun in the fifth house turns the year toward joy, creativity and the heart: romance, play, self-expression and whatever gets made purely for pleasure. It pushes you toward your own creative work rather than toward admiring somebody else's, which is a harder and more exposing thing to do. Over this next lap around the Sun the work is nurturing the creative outlets without waiting to stop feeling judged about them. In daily life it arrives as small openings — a gap in the day, a window, something you notice and want to put down somewhere. Fear of showing the work, and of what showing it says about you, is the knot. Show it anyway — to a room, to a camera, or to one person whose opinion you actually want. Something you make this year purely because you felt like making it will get a warmer and quicker response than anything you produced deliberately for an audience, and the gap between the two will be hard to ignore. Met from the old fear, play becomes performance. The work gets made for the response rather than for itself, pleasure acquires a scoreboard, and a year that was offering delight is spent auditioning for approval. Met well, the making stays its own reason, and the year produces something you would still be glad of if nobody had seen it, which is the best test of anything made in a fifth-house year.

The line to keep: the thing you made for no reason will travel further than the thing you made for an audience.

The year often opens with an invitation: a romance, a creative idea, a chance to perform or to play. The middle months ask you to keep making the thing once the first excitement fades, and that stretch holds most of the value. By the next birthday you should be able to point to something you made or loved that would not exist without these months, and to a kind of joy you now know how to find again.

What would you make, or let yourself enjoy, if no one were counting? A fifth-house year asks for pleasure taken seriously, and it is kind to the person who stops treating play as something to earn first.

The Natal Promise Relit — Where Each Point Sits

Where a return planet stands on a natal one, that natal planet is woken for the year, and whatever it promised at birth becomes the year's live material. Below is each natal point a planet of this return stands on, and where it sits in your chart. Each is read in full in your natal reading; here it is a reminder, so this report can spend its words on what is moving.

Sun — your natal Sun sits in Capricorn, in the sixth house. Your return Sun stands on it, as at every solar return, your return Mars, about two

degrees away, your return Venus, about two degrees away, and your return Mercury, about three degrees away.

Mars — your natal Mars sits in Aquarius, in the sixth house. Your return Pluto stands on it, about a degree away.

Mercury — your natal Mercury sits in Capricorn, in the fifth house. Your return Moon stands on it, about two degrees away.

The Internal Landscape

The rising sign and the Sun give the year its outward shape. But a year is also lived privately, in weather nobody else sees, and three planets map that interior. The Moon sets the emotional tone: what moves you, what settles you, where your mood goes when nothing in particular is happening. Venus colours how you love and what you find worth having — the year's pleasures and its standards for them. Mars supplies the drive and the friction: what you push at, what you fight about, and where the heat goes when it has nowhere better. Between them they describe the year you will actually remember, because a year is not recalled as a list of events. It is recalled as how it felt to be inside it, and these three are what decided that.

Return Moon in the fifth house colours the year with romance, creativity and play: the heart wants expression, delight and warmth,

and feeling flows toward love, fun and things made simply to enjoy. The pressure here is on what you make and who you love, not on the accounts. An old interest comes back — painting, writing, whatever you used to do before it stopped being justifiable. The pleasure is in the making itself: the colour, the movement of the hand, the warmth of being absorbed. Self-doubt shows up halfway through. A thing made this year purely for the pleasure of it will end up mattering more to somebody else than it does to you, and they will say so. Let the doubt turn up without letting it take the afternoon. Go without play for long this year and the mood turns flat and sulky, which is the signal to bring it back. Time with young people, or making something for the joy of it, restores you. Moods can swing with a love affair, so enjoy the high points without deciding everything from inside them. Small celebrations matter more than usual: mark the good days.

The line to keep: this year wants delight and will not accept anything serious as a substitute for it. Productivity is not a defence here.

With the return Moon in Capricorn, the year's emotional weather is serious and self-contained. You handle feelings by taking responsibility, and the weight of duty may sit on you more heavily than usual. The year rewards emotional maturity: keeping promises, building steadily, and finding satisfaction in what you have earned. The cost is coldness, and a reluctance to ask for support even when it is obviously needed. Structure and achievement steady you, but so does

being looked after occasionally, which you are likely to resist.

The line to keep: you will carry a lot this year without complaint, so let someone help with some of it before it grows too heavy.

The fifth house takes this year's Venus, and the pairing is one of the most romantic and joyful a return can hold: love affairs, creativity, pleasure and play all light up. The pleasure available this year is the making kind rather than the receiving kind, and it wants your hands in it. In the stretch ahead there is more warmth available than usual — with family and friends, or in something romantic that starts faster than you planned. Colour, laughter in a full room and a spontaneity that arrives without being arranged mark the good weeks. Feelings can also swing, and a disappointment in love can make balance hard to find for a while. Interest will arrive this year at a thoroughly inconvenient moment, from a direction you were not watching, and the inconvenience will turn out to be the most honest part of it. Romance, creativity and pleasure flourish: a love affair, a creative project that delights you, happy hours spent with the young or with the playful side of yourself. Few years are easier to enjoy, and old hobbies come back with fresh zest. Enjoy it fully, and notice what gives lasting pleasure rather than only a thrill.

The line to keep: the inconvenient arrival is the honest one this year.

With the return Venus in Capricorn, the year loves seriously and loyally. Affection shows through commitment and reliability, and mature, capable people who take their lives seriously appeal to you most. Relationships are judged by whether they will last, and this year may formalise a bond or test whether it can. Money is handled with care, and spending goes on quality and long-term security. The year suits building a relationship patiently and investing in things of real value. The cost is reserve, and treating love as another duty rather than a pleasure. Making room for play softens the year.

The line to keep: love this year is a long-term investment, and like any investment it pays better when you also enjoy it.

Return Mars in the fifth house fires up romance, creativity and play this year: bold creative work, competitive games and sport, and a hotter pulse in love. You get noticed for whatever you make boldly this year. As this chapter opens, whatever you put out publicly carries more of your own voice in it than it used to. The concrete version is a room where the boldest thing you brought is the thing people remember. Risk-taking is tempting, and celebration can tip into excess, with boundaries blurred and lines crossed in the name of fun. What the year rewards is making something with real feeling in it and a shape you chose rather than inherited. You will start something with real heat this year and have to decide, somewhere around the third month when the heat has gone out of it, whether heat was ever the same thing as

commitment at all, and what exactly is left standing if it was not. Passion, competition and creative drive run high, and they want an outlet. Games, sport and anything with a scoreboard suit the year; so does teaching a younger person a skill you are proud of. Enjoy the fire, and make sure it goes into what you want to build rather than into quarrels with the people you love.

The line to keep: heat is not commitment, and the third month is where you find out which one you had.

With the return Mars in Capricorn, the year's energy is disciplined, ambitious and enduring. Mars is exalted here, and you can work hard for a long time towards a clear goal. Effort goes into career, reputation and long-term plans. The year favours building a business, earning a promotion, and any project that rewards strategy and stamina. You handle pressure well. The cost is overwork, coldness towards people who slow you down, and treating rest as weakness. Anger this year is controlled, but it can harden into resentment if it is never expressed. The results can last for years.

The line to keep: your effort this year is built to last, so climb steadily and stop occasionally to notice how far you have come.

The Year's Mind — Where the Thinking Goes

Return Mercury in the fifth house gives play a voice this year. The mind turns toward making things, flirting, performing, and whatever you do purely because it is interesting. Creative output with words in it does well: writing, teaching something you enjoy, the project you do for love and then discover other people want. Romance this year arrives through talk, and holds through wit rather than intensity. A crush conducted entirely in clever sentences is still a crush, and deserves noticing as one. Games, puzzles and showing somebody younger how something works all pay back more than they cost, and an evening spent arguing happily about nothing in particular may prove the best of the lot. Writing for fun tends to turn into something worth keeping. Cleverness can also be deployed as a defence: being entertaining instead of being present, which works well and leaves the year strangely unmemorable. Restlessness drops one amusement the moment the next appears, so the best idea of the year needs a finish line.

The line to keep: what you make for nobody but yourself this year carries your name more clearly than anything made to order.

With the return Mercury in Capricorn, the year thinks strategically. You plan, structure, and say only what you can stand behind, which makes your word carry weight with others. Business plans, contracts, long projects and conversations with people in authority go well. The risk is pessimism passed off as realism, and a coolness in speech that

others read as disapproval when you meant only care. Put some warmth into the plan, and people will follow it further.

The line to keep: people will take your word seriously this year, so give it carefully and give it warmly.

Where the Year Grows

Return Jupiter in the eleventh house widens your circle. It grows friendships, networks, the groups you belong to and the future you think is available, and the right rooms open: people who are further along make room for you, a community turns out to be a resource rather than a pastime, and a hope you had quietly shelved starts looking practical again. New people arrive through groups, causes and existing friends, and some of them bring openings that would never have reached you alone.

Hopes for the future grow bolder and more realistic at the same time, because the right allies make them look possible. Breadth is easy to collect this year, and just as easy to mistake for belonging. Left to itself it ends as a great many acquaintances and no closer friends, and a calendar full of people who would not notice if you stopped turning up. A couple of the new names deserve a whole evening instead of a group chat, and you will usually know which ones by how little effort the conversation takes.

The line to keep: count how many of this year's new people you would call at two in the morning. That number, not the other one, is what the year actually built.

In Cancer, Jupiter is exalted, and the year's growth comes through home, family and emotional security. A move, a family event, a home improvement or a deeper sense of belonging can be the year's great gift. Generosity towards people you love comes back warmly, and the private life tends to prosper. The trap is overprotection: spending too much on the nest, or holding on to people who need room to grow.

The line to keep: the luck this year lives close to home, so make the base generous and let it support everything else you do.

And laid over your birth chart, this Jupiter falls in your eleventh house.

The year's fortune arrives through groups and through people who owe you nothing. Networks widen, invitations come, and somebody at the edge of your circle turns out to matter more than the people at the centre. Long plans get their footing this year. The shadow is being spread across too many rooms to be properly in any of them, and confusing a large circle with a held one. Count the friendships that would survive you asking for something.

Jupiter's shadow is excess, and this year it lives in the same house as the luck: joining every group and cause until your loyalty is everywhere and nowhere. The opening is real; the size of your yes is the thing to watch.

Which group, cause or friendship would you invest in if you knew it would pay you back? An eleventh-house Jupiter brings fortune through people, and the year's best openings tend to arrive as introductions.

Where the Year Breaks Something

Your return Uranus sits at the very end of the ninth house, about five degrees from the Midheaven: close enough to the angle to be read on the Midheaven, in the tenth house, and that is how it is read here.

Return Uranus occupies the tenth house, and public life becomes the unstable element. Standing, direction and the outward shape of what you do are all open to revision, less in one blow than as a current beneath this whole year. It can be a break toward something truer: leaving a track you were set on, going your own way, being known for the unconventional thing rather than despite it. Recognition can arrive suddenly and from an unexpected quarter. Or the upheaval can be imposed — a role dissolving, a circle you are part of rearranging itself, a reputation moving without your input.

A change of role or direction is at least possible: an unexpected offer, an arrangement rewritten, a decision to leave what you took to be settled. Reputations shift quickly, for better and worse. Whatever you do independently, or in a way nobody has quite done it before, suits the placement better than anything that depends on waiting your turn. If you have been waiting for permission to change course, events may take the decision out of your hands.

The line to keep: your public identity is being loosened this year whether you loosen it or not. The people who fare well are the ones who had already started.

Where the Year Goes Soft

The seventh house is where this year's Neptune falls, and the other person becomes hard to see clearly: close relationships, and any one-to-one arrangement, run on imagination as much as on evidence. Neptune does not act fast in a return; it softens the focus on others gradually, and the softening lasts. It can bring real compassion inside a relationship — seeing somebody whole, including the parts they cannot defend, and being seen the same way. It can also put a picture where a person should be: rescuing, being rescued, or discovering late in the year that you had agreed to something you never actually discussed. Whoever stands opposite you — someone you love, a close

friend, anyone you sign an agreement with — may be idealised or misread, and a bond may carry sacrifice or a longing that is hard to name. Contracts need careful reading. Spend time with people as they actually are, and check the practical facts before committing to anything because of how it feels.

The line to keep: whatever goes unsaid between you and anyone close this year gets filled in by imagination, which stays generous right up until the day it stops.

Where the Year Presses Hardest

Return Pluto in the fifth house lends desire real weight: romance, creativity and play all arrive with more force than the department usually holds. Pluto does its work slowly, so the deepening builds as the year unfolds rather than flaring once and fading. It can bring something made with genuine power in it, which costs you to make and shows the cost, or a romance that goes far deeper than its beginning suggested. It can also bring obsession wearing the costume of passion: the attachment that consumes, the risk taken for the intensity rather than the prize. Hobbies stop being light, and a game played for fun can turn into something you need to win. Speculation and gambling deserve a cool head, because the thrill can outrun the arithmetic. Pleasure becomes serious. Commit to what truly moves

you, and drop the pursuits that were only habit.

The line to keep: what you want this year, you will want completely, and the only time to judge whether it deserves that is at the start.

The Year's Work — Saturn's Station

Return Saturn in the seventh house tests partnership this year and matures it: the classic commitment-or-reckoning cycle, in which a serious bond is made, deepened, or weighed for what it can actually carry. How you spend time with the people closest to you shifts in small ways across the year. Relationships of every kind demand attention, sometimes because an old one comes back into range. Expectations nobody stated, resentment nobody voiced, and whatever earlier experience still sets the terms all come up to be looked at. Unfinished business arrives for a decision: reconcile it, mend it, or say plainly that somebody has drifted. You may also end up the one holding a group's social machinery together, which is partnership by another name.

A commitment will be tested this year by ordinary weather rather than by any drama at all, and ordinary weather is, by some considerable distance, the harder of those two tests for anybody to pass. Boundaries firm up, and some of the firmness is yours: what you will carry for somebody else, and what you have finished carrying. Somebody may

ask you for a promise, and the honest answer will take longer to give than is comfortable for anybody. Loyalty gets measured this year in small, unglamorous acts more than in declarations. Any arrangement with money or signatures in it deserves a clearer contract than the one it has. The bonds that pass come out steadier and quieter, and the ones that fail show precisely what the next one must be able to hold.

The line to keep: a bond that survives an ordinary year has been tested properly.

On the Angles — the Headlines

Four points in a return chart are not places so much as doorways. The rising point is where the year meets you, the setting point is where it meets everybody else, the top of the chart is what the year makes public, and the floor beneath it is what the year does privately, at home, in the part of your life nobody is invited into.

Those four are the load-bearing walls. Every house in the chart is measured from them, which is why a planet standing on one behaves so differently from the same planet sitting comfortably in the middle of a house. In the middle of a house a planet colours a department of your life. On an angle it stands in a doorway the whole year has to walk through, and its subject stops being one of the year's themes and becomes the year's structure.

This is why the placements below are given first billing rather than being folded in with everything else. They are not the most dramatic contacts in the chart and they may not be the ones you would have picked out. They are the ones with load on them. Two practical things follow. The first is that closeness matters more here than anywhere else in the reading: a planet within a degree of an angle is doing something you will feel as a condition of the year rather than as an event inside it, and one sitting five degrees away is a strong influence rather than a structural one. The second is that a hard planet on an angle is not bad news. It means the year's difficulty has been given a specific address instead of being spread thinly through everything, and a difficulty with an address is one you can actually work with. If nothing at all sits on an angle in your chart this year, that is worth knowing too. It usually describes a year that is busy in its rooms and quiet in its structure — plenty happening, but nothing rebuilding the walls while it happens.

Return Uranus at the Midheaven brings sudden change to your public direction this year: an abrupt turn, a path nobody would have predicted, an unconventional opening, or a disruption to your standing that arrives from outside. Anyone who assumed they knew where you were heading will have to ask again. As an outer planet it works less like a single event than like a shift in the climate of the year, so the plans you make should leave room for it. Bold moves, inventive ideas

and a willingness to step into the unknown all come within reach, and so do stretches of doubt and confusion while the new ground is still unfamiliar. A certainty about your direction will come apart this year rather faster than you can replace it, and the gap between the two is where most of the year actually happens.

The ordinary week stops holding its shape. Arrangements that ran without thought now need deciding about, and the deciding is the tiring part. What replaces them is rarely chosen all at once; it assembles over the year out of whatever you tried and did not abandon. Expect at least one stretch in which a door closes and another opens, and the second door is stranger than the first. Being known as dependable may give way to being known as original, and the trade is better than it first looks. Releasing an old success matters as much as releasing an old disappointment, because both keep you facing the wrong way. By the end of it you will be doing something you could not have described when the year began, and the description you would have given then will look faintly quaint to you.

The line to keep: the certainty that comes apart this year was pinning you in place more than it was propping you up.

The Year's Summit — the Gemini Midheaven

Gemini on the return Midheaven sends the year's energy through words and connections. Your standing grows through what you say, write, teach, sell or explain, and through the number of people who now know how to reach you. The working week fills with more than one project at once, conversations that turn into opportunities, and a reputation built less on a single achievement than on being the person who knows who to ask. A well-written note can open a door that months of effort could not. The trap is scattering. With everything interesting and everything half-finished, a Gemini summit can end the year known mainly for starting things. Choose which two threads are the career and let the rest be curiosity. Talk widely, commit narrowly.

The line to keep: you will be remembered for the one thing you finished saying, not the ten you began.

The Wider Chart Relit — Where Each Point Sits

The chapters above read this year's Jupiter and Saturn in the return chart. Here is where each sits in your birth chart, as a reminder; each is read in full in your natal reading.

Jupiter — your natal Jupiter sits in Aries, in the eighth house.

Saturn — your natal Saturn sits in Aquarius, in the sixth house.

The Ruler of the Year

Every return chart has a ruler, and it is the single most useful thing in it. Whatever sign was rising at the moment the Sun came back to its birth position has a traditional ruler, and that planet governs the whole twelve months. Find it, and where it sits is where the year's real business gets conducted. This matters because a return chart hands you ten planets and no obvious order of importance. The ruler settles it. If the year's ruler sits in the tenth house, the year is about your work and standing whatever else the chart says. If it sits in the fourth, the year happens at home, even in a chart that otherwise looks outward and public.

Two other things about it are worth checking. Whether it is strong or struggling in the return chart tells you how much help the year gives you: a ruler that is well placed and well aspected means the year's central matter moves under its own steam, and one that is buried or under pressure means the same matter has to be pushed uphill. And whether it is moving forward or retrograde tells you whether the year's business is new or unfinished.

When the ruler of the year lands in the same house the rest of the chart is emphasising, the reading is unusually clear and you can take it at face value. When it lands somewhere else entirely, that is worth its own attention: it usually means the year's visible activity and the year's

actual purpose are in two different rooms.

One caution about the whole method. The rising sign of a return chart changes with the clock, so it depends on knowing your birth time closely. If your time is uncertain by an hour or more, the ruler of the year may not be the planet this reading names, and the houses will have shifted with it. Everything else in the return — the planets, their signs, their aspects — holds regardless.

Mercury rules your year: it rules Virgo, the sign rising in your return chart, and sits in the fifth house of the return, in Capricorn. It is moving forward, so the year's business is new. The fifth is also the return's most crowded house, so the year's purpose and its activity are in the same room, and the reading can be taken at face value.

The Houses That Carry the Year — and the Ones That Rest

Stand back from the chart before reading any single placement, and notice which rooms of the year are crowded and which are empty. The shape of the emphasis is a reading in itself, and it is the fastest way to know what a year is for. Planets cluster. A return chart almost never spreads them evenly, so two or three houses will hold most of the traffic and six or seven will hold none. The crowded houses are where the year spends you: that is where the events happen, where the

attention goes, and where you will look back and say the year was about that. Two planets in one house is emphasis. Three is a headline.

The empty houses are not bad news and they are not nothing. They are the departments of life that get a year off. A year with an empty seventh does not mean a bad year for relationships; it means relationships are not what this particular year is working on, and they will mostly look after themselves. People routinely misread a quiet house as a warning when it is closer to a rest.

One useful check: compare the crowded houses against the department your profected year names. When they agree, the year has one clear subject and is easy to plan around. When they disagree, you are being asked to do two things at once, which is worth knowing in advance rather than discovering in June. Where the crowding sits matters as well as how much of it there is. Planets gathered below the horizon, in the first six houses, describe a year worked out largely in private, whatever it produces. Gathered above it, in the top six, they describe a year that happens in public and is shaped by other people's responses to it. Most charts lean one way, and the lean is usually obvious at a glance and rarely wrong.

The crowded houses of your return chart are the fifth (the Sun, the Moon, Mercury, Venus, Mars and Pluto) and the seventh (Saturn and Neptune). Eight houses stand empty: the first, second, third, fourth,

sixth, eighth, ninth and twelfth. Six of the ten planets sit below the horizon, in the first six houses: a year worked out largely in private. Your profected year is a third-house year (The Multi-Year Arc, below), and the crowded houses do not include it: the year is asking two things at once.

The Shape of the Twelve Months — a Timing Sketch

A return describes the whole year's stage set at once, which is its one real limitation: it shows you everything and tells you nothing about the order. The scenes light up in sequence as the transiting planets cross the year's sensitive points, and the broad rhythm is readable without over-predicting. Anything sitting on the return Ascendant tends to fire early, in the weeks around the birthday itself. That is why some years announce their character immediately — a rising planet puts its subject in the opening act, and the first month sets a tone the other eleven develop. If the year has a launch in it, that is usually where the window sits.

Planets near the Midheaven tend to arrive with the year's public turns, and those near the IC with the private ones, which often come at the quieter end of the calendar. Planets in the houses between are timed less by the chart than by the transiting Sun: when it crosses a return planet's degree, that part of the year usually surfaces for a few weeks.

The practical version is simple. Note where each return planet sits by degree, then watch for the transiting Sun and the faster planets to reach those degrees. Those are the year's live weeks. It will not tell you what happens, but it tells you when to pay attention, which is most of what a timing technique is for. Two warnings, both from watching people use this badly. A return year runs birthday to birthday, so its second half falls in the following calendar year and the January reset has nothing to do with it. And a quiet stretch in the middle is normal rather than a sign the reading was wrong; most years do their work in three or four concentrated periods and spend the rest of the time absorbing them.

❖ *The Year's Live Weeks — the Dates for This Return*

The sketch above says to watch for the Sun reaching each return planet's degree. Those dates can be worked out in advance, and these are yours. Each opens a few weeks in which that planet's part of the year tends to come forward; the chapters above say what each part is.

- **19 January 2026** — the Sun reaches your return Venus, in the fifth house of the return.
- **23 January 2026** — the Sun reaches your return Pluto, in the fifth house of the return.
- **17 March 2026** — the Sun reaches your return Saturn, in the seventh house of the return.

- **20 March 2026** — the Sun reaches your return Neptune, in the seventh house of the return.
- **18 May 2026** — the Sun reaches your return Uranus, in the tenth house of the return.
- **11 July 2026** — the Sun reaches your return Jupiter, in the eleventh house of the return.
- **28 December 2026** — the Sun reaches your return Moon, in the fifth house of the return.
- **14 January 2027** — the Sun reaches your return Mercury, in the fifth house of the return.
- **15 January 2027** — the Sun reaches your return Mars, in the fifth house of the return.

✥ *The Year's Eclipses — the Turns Nobody Scheduled*

Eclipses come in seasons about six months apart, usually two to a season, so a return year usually holds four or five of them. A solar eclipse, at a new moon, tends to open something; a lunar eclipse, at a full moon, tends to bring something to a head or to a close. These are the eclipses of your year, placed in the houses of the return.

- **Solar eclipse, 17 February 2026**, in Aquarius — the sixth house of the return.

- **Lunar eclipse, 3 March 2026**, in Virgo — the first house of the return.
- **Solar eclipse, 12 August 2026**, in Leo — the twelfth house of the return.
- **Lunar eclipse, 28 August 2026**, in Pisces — the sixth house of the return.

❖ *Across the Sixth and Twelfth Houses of the Return*

Much of what this year's eclipses change happens out of sight. They run across the return's sixth house, which holds the daily job, the routines, the colleagues and the unglamorous upkeep of daily life, and its twelfth, of retreat, solitude, institutions and whatever is being kept out of view. On the sixth-house side the turn is practical: duties change, a colleague leaves, a working pattern that has been quietly failing finally stops, a habit is broken or begun. On the twelfth-house side it is harder to see. Something ends in private, a secret surfaces, time is spent away from the crowd by choice or because life arranges it, and work done behind the scenes starts to count for more than anything on show. Both ends ask the same question from opposite directions: what you do every day, and what it costs you to keep doing it. Stepping back is a legitimate answer on this axis, not a lapse.

The line to keep: a routine you have kept going out of habit stops this year, and what replaces it is decided in private before anyone else notices.

❖ *Across the First and Seventh Houses of the Return*

This year's eclipses land on the line between you and the other person, the return's first and seventh houses, and the year's unscheduled turns come from there. The return has already set the stage for twelve months; these are the dates when a piece of it moves without asking. On this axis what moves is a relationship's footing. The first-house side is your own conduct: what you will no longer tolerate, how you want to be seen, a decision you make for yourself that other people then have to absorb. The seventh-house side is the other person acting first. A partner decides, a collaborator leaves, an opponent forces a clear position, an offer arrives that you did not court. What an eclipse starts here usually looks small on the day and has reorganised the year's company within a few months.

The line to keep: someone's place in your life is being renegotiated this year, and the eclipse dates mark when the terms move, not when you finish agreeing to them.

The Multi-Year Arc — Where This Birthday Sits

One return is a single frame in a longer film, and reading it in isolation is the commonest way to get a year wrong. Each birthday chart hands over to the next, and a year makes far more sense when you know what it is arriving out of and what it is setting up. The clearest way to see this is against your profection cycle, which runs on the same birthday clock. A return that opens a first-house year is the beginning of a twelve-year arc, and it carries a weight that the same chart would not carry in the middle of one. A return that opens a twelfth-house year is a closing chapter, and its business is release rather than launch — which is why an ambitious-looking return chart can land in a year that quietly refuses to start anything.

The other comparison worth making is with the returns immediately either side. A theme that appears in three consecutive returns is a real multi-year project, not a passing season, and recognising it early changes what you do about it. This is also why a difficult return chart is less alarming than it looks. A hard year inside a constructive arc is usually the year the foundation gets dug, and the reading that frightens somebody in isolation reads as necessary the moment you can see the three years around it.

There is a longer rhythm underneath as well. The return Ascendant does not wander at random: it tends to advance in a rough pattern across the years, so a run of returns will often rise in related signs before moving on. If you keep your returns, that pattern becomes

visible after five or six of them, and it is one of the few things in astrology you can check against your own memory of those years rather than take on trust.

This return opens the year you turn 62. By profection it is a third-house year, in the house of thought, speech, siblings and the near neighbourhood: year three of the twelve-year cycle that began at 60. The next cycle opens at 72.

The Year's Emotional Tide — the Return Moon

Your return Moon is in its balsamic phase.

This is the quiet year at the end of a cycle, and it should be treated as one. The return Moon is closing on the Sun, so the twelve months are about completion, release and rest rather than about anything new. Emotionally the year runs low and inward. Energy is genuinely reduced, solitude is genuinely needed, and the pull toward endings is accurate rather than melancholy. Things conclude this year, often without drama and often for the better. The mistake is starting something significant. A balsamic year is a poor foundation and an excellent clearance, and anything launched now tends to belong to the old cycle rather than the new one. Finish, tidy, forgive what needs forgiving, and rest. The next beginning is closer than it feels.

How to Live This Year Well — the Practical Synthesis

Your year is ruled by Mercury, and Mercury sits in the 5th house of the return chart.

Make something, and let it be seen. The planet running your year sits in the house of creation and play, so the year rewards output that exists because you wanted it to exist rather than because it was commissioned. Practically: start the thing you have been describing to people instead of doing. Give it real hours, not leftovers. A fifth-house year is generous to work with your fingerprints on it and indifferent to work you did to specification.

Children feature, in whatever form applies — your own, somebody else's, or the students and juniors who end up in your care. So does romance, and specifically the beginning of it: this is a year when flirtation, courtship and the early part are livelier than usual. And take the enjoyment seriously. Pleasure is not a distraction from a fifth-house year; it is the mechanism by which the year actually works.

Aim at a Gemini goal. With the year's Midheaven in Gemini, the year's public success comes through communication: writing, speaking, teaching, selling, networking and connecting people with ideas. So pick a goal that involves your voice, such as publishing something, giving talks, building a following or learning a skill that makes you

more versatile. Several small opportunities may arrive at once, and choosing two to follow seriously beats chasing all of them. Your reputation this year rests on being informed and articulate, so keep learning, and make sure people know what you know.

The Year's Cautions — Where to Walk Carefully

Your year is ruled by Mercury, and Mercury sits in the 5th house of the return chart.

Watch the audience creeping in. A year run through the house of creation works when you make things because you want them to exist, and misfires the moment the making becomes a bid for approval. You will feel the shift as a change in what you start. The work gets safer, more obviously likeable, and less yours — and the pleasure that was driving the year quietly drains out of it while the output continues.

Romance carries a related risk. Fifth-house years are lively at the beginning of things, which is exactly why they can produce a chain of beginnings and no follow-through, and occasionally a flattering situation somebody is going to be hurt by. Indulgence is the plain one. Fifth-house years are enjoyable, enjoyment is the mechanism, and the same mechanism handles money and drink and time badly if nothing at all is holding the line.

Jupiter is retrograde in your return chart.

Growth turns inward for twelve months, and very little of it will look like progress to anybody watching. Jupiter retrograde in the return chart redirects expansion — understanding rather than acquisition, depth rather than scale, and almost nothing you can point at. The hazard is expecting the usual Jupiter payoff and reading its absence as failure. Opportunities arrive later than promised, or arrive and turn out to need more from you than advertised. Check the size of anything offered before accepting it.

Overconfidence is the other risk, and it is quieter than usual: a retrograde Jupiter tends to produce private certainty rather than public boasting, which is harder for anybody around you to correct. Test the belief against somebody who disagrees, at least once. Where the year does pay is in what you already have. A retrograde Jupiter is far better at extracting the value from an existing commitment than at finding a new one, so consolidate rather than reach.

Watch the fog in partnership. Neptune occupies your seventh house this year, so you may idealise a partner or business associate, or find it hard to see their true intentions. Relationships can be deeply compassionate and spiritually rich, and also prone to disappointment if expectations are unrealistic. Be careful about rescuing a partner or being rescued, since both create imbalance. Contracts and agreements

with others need extra scrutiny this year. Honest conversation keeps the fog thin. Love the partner who is actually there, not an imagined one, and the bond gains from it.

The Year's Inner Aspects — How the Planets Speak to Each Other

The planets of a return do not act alone, and the angles between them decide whether the year's energies cooperate or work against each other. Two charts can hold the same placements in the same houses and read completely differently depending on how those planets are speaking. The easy aspects, the trines and sextiles, mean two parts of the year are on good terms. Drive and discipline in a trine means the year's energy can be pointed at long work without a fight. It does not mean the work happens by itself; a flowing aspect describes an open door rather than somebody walking through it, and easy years are the ones most often wasted.

The hard aspects, the squares and oppositions, mean two things the year wants are pulling against each other. That is uncomfortable and it is also where the year does its actual work. A square between the year's ambition and the year's home life is not a warning that something will go wrong; it is a description of a year in which both make real demands and you will be choosing between them more than once.

A conjunction fuses two things so completely you may not be able to tell them apart while the year is happening. And a planet with almost no aspects at all runs unsupervised: its department of life goes its own way that year, largely untouched by the rest of the chart, for better and for worse. Read the aspects to the year's ruler before any of the others. A ruler under a hard aspect describes a year whose central business meets resistance from a named quarter, and the aspect tells you which quarter, which is far more useful than a general warning. A ruler that is well supported describes a year that will help you if you ask it to, and the asking is the part people forget.

The year is ruled by Mercury, the ruler of Virgo, the sign rising in the return chart.

Mercury's aspects in the return chart:

- **Mercury conjunct Mars**, about a degree from exact. Mars stands right beside the ruler, so your drive and your plans arrive as one thing this year, hard to tell apart while it is happening.
- **Mercury conjunct Sun**, about three degrees from exact. The Sun stands right beside the ruler, so your will and your plans arrive as one thing this year, hard to tell apart while it is happening.
- **Mercury sextile Saturn**, about three degrees from exact. The year's central business, your plans, can count on your duties once you ask, and the asking is the part people forget.

- **Mercury trine Uranus**, about four degrees from exact. The year's central business, your plans, has the urge for change on its side without asking: the door is open, and it still needs walking through.
- **Mercury opposite Jupiter**, about five degrees from exact. The year's central business, your plans, meets resistance from your growth, often through another person who stands for it, and you will be choosing between them more than once.
- **Mercury conjunct Venus**, about five degrees from exact. Venus stands right beside the ruler, so your love life and your plans arrive as one thing this year, hard to tell apart while it is happening.

The return chart's other close aspects, closest first:

- **Saturn sextile Uranus**, exact. Saturn and Uranus can work together this year: your duties and the urge for change help each other once you make the first move.
- **Venus sextile Neptune**, exact. Venus and Neptune can work together this year: your love life and your imagination help each other once you make the first move.
- **Sun sextile Saturn**, exact. The Sun and Saturn can work together this year: your will and your duties help each other once you make the first move.
- **Sun trine Uranus**, about a degree from exact. The Sun and Uranus are on good terms this year: your will and the urge for change help

each other without effort.

- **Venus trine Uranus**, about two degrees from exact. Venus and Uranus are on good terms this year: your love life and the urge for change help each other without effort.

The Return Chart Over Your Birth Chart

A return chart means much less floating on its own than it does laid over your birth chart, and the overlay is where most of the specific detail in a good return reading comes from. The return is a temporary chart. The birth chart is the permanent one. What matters is where the temporary one lands on it. The rising sign of the return is the first thing to place. Whatever house of your BIRTH chart that sign occupies is the department of your life the year enters through, and it is often more informative than the return's own first house. A year rising in the sign on your natal seventh is a year that arrives through other people, whatever else it contains.

Then look at where the return's planets fall in your natal houses. A return Jupiter that sits in the return's second house but lands on your natal tenth is a year of growth that shows up in your standing rather than your bank account. The return says what happens; the natal house it lands in says which part of your actual life it happens to.

Contacts to your natal planets matter most of all. A return planet sitting on a natal one wakes that natal planet for twelve months, and whatever it promised at birth becomes the year's live material. Those are the placements to read first and take most seriously. The overlay also explains why two people can have near-identical return charts and completely different years. The temporary chart is only half the sentence. Laid over one birth chart a return Saturn lands harmlessly in an empty natal house; laid over another it sits exactly on the natal Sun, and the same year that was uneventful for the first person reorganises the second one's life.

The year's light falls on the working day. Craft, routine and the body's maintenance carry the year. It is unglamorous and it compounds; a year spent here is felt for several afterwards.

The year's feeling attaches to pleasure and to what you make. Romance, children and creative work move you more than usual, and being enjoyed matters as much as being admired.

The year's thinking turns playful and creative. Ideas arrive for the pleasure of them, and you are more persuasive than usual because you are enjoying yourself.

The year's warmth attaches to the working day and to the people you share it with. Affection here looks like reliability rather than romance,

and it is worth more.

The year's effort goes into what you make and who you want. Creative drive is high, so is competitiveness, and both want an outlet with a scoreboard. Romance runs hotter and shorter-fused. The shadow is treating play as a contest until it stops being play. Keep one thing you do badly on purpose and the year stays enjoyable.

The year puts weight on what is shared. Debt, an arrangement, an inheritance, or an intimacy that needs terms rather than assumptions. What was borrowed comes due, in money or in trust. The shadow is avoiding the conversation because the numbers are embarrassing. They get less embarrassing the sooner they are said out loud.

The year's disruption lands on your public life. The career turns, the role changes, or you are seen differently without having chosen to be. Whatever leaves this year was going to leave; the surprise is only the timing.

The year softens what is shared. Joint arrangements go vague, intimacy runs deeper and less defined, and something you had kept sealed starts leaking gently. Get the shared terms in writing, however unromantic that feels.

The year rebuilds the working day. The job, the routine or the body's regime is remade rather than improved, and the habits that survive are

the ones that were load-bearing all along.

Reading Your Return Each Year — the Method

A new return chart is cast every birthday, which means this is a reading you can renew for the rest of your life. It helps to know the keys, so that the chart cast at your next birthday tells you something without anybody's help. Read them in this order. First the RISING SIGN of the return — the year's costume, the manner the twelve months hand you whether or not it suits you. Then WHICH OF YOUR NATAL HOUSES that rising degree falls into, which is the doorway the year opens onto and sets the whole theme. Then the HOUSE OF THE RETURN SUN, where the year's will and attention concentrate.

Then look for ANY PLANET SITTING ON A RETURN ANGLE — the Ascendant, Midheaven, Descendant or the base of the chart. These are the load-bearing themes: the matters that become structural this year rather than incidental. A year with nothing on an angle is a quieter year, and that is worth knowing too. Then the RETURN MOON by sign and house, which is the emotional weather and where it collects. Then RETURN VENUS AND MARS — what the year loves and what it fights for.

Then the overlay: WHICH RETURN PLANETS LAND ON YOUR NATAL PLANETS, which are the year's activations, and WHICH OF

YOUR NATAL HOUSES the return planets light up. Finally the RULER OF THE RETURN ASCENDANT and the house it sits in. That single placement is a master key, and if you only have five minutes with a chart it is the one to look at. Treat each key as a question the year is putting to you rather than an answer it has already given, and note down the one or two that land hardest. With those keys every birthday hands you a readable map of the year ahead.

Holding the Year

Look at the shape of the whole year now that it is all on the table, because the meaning is in the shape rather than in any single placement. Notice which parts of this reading sat up high in the chart, in public view — reputation, standing, the things other people will see you do — and which sat low and private, in the parts of a chart nobody else gets to look at. Almost every year has both. They are not in conflict and they are not two separate stories: the visible half is usually only sustainable because of what you are willing to do in the quiet half, and the quiet work only matters because something real is being built on top of it.

A year is not a verdict. Nothing here is fixed, and nothing here happens to you without your participation — a return chart describes the conditions, not the outcome. The same set can produce a year you are

proud of or a year you endure, and the difference is mostly what you did with the information early rather than late. Read that way, even the hardest placement in this chart is advance notice, and advance notice is the one thing a difficult stretch rarely hands anybody.

So take one thing from this. Not a list — one. The placement you recognised most sharply while reading, the one that made you stop for a second, is the year's real work, and it will keep presenting itself until it is addressed. Everything else in this reading is context for that. Then put it away, and return to it about halfway to your next birthday. Half of what a return chart says is invisible until the year has started saying it back to you.

