

PROGRESSED MERCURY THROUGH THE SIGNS OF THE ZODIAC

The goal of all our quests of self-searching may be found in both an attitude and in the actual practice of some form of service. It is through the development of our focus on impersonal, collective awareness that the terrible disease of “me-my-mine-it is” can be cured. It is thus that the polarized and confused personality may become transformed, resulting in the unified and focused individual. Service to humanity and the Path that leads us to it are very definitely fundamental to the unfolding paradigm of evolution in the New Age.

--A.O.

Mercury's function in the natal horoscope is to show the place of greatest activity (house), nature (sign) and condition (planetary aspects) of the rational mind in a person's life. It is the development of reason out of instinct that separates the human kingdom from the animal. The position of Mercury in the chart is a prime indicator of one's intellectual and inventive interests, skills and capabilities. Those people who are fortunate enough to be born with a strong and positive Mercury will be apt with words, learn foreign languages easily (especially if Mercury is well placed with Jupiter), have a bright wit, and little difficulty in communicating with others. Such people will also be gifted with strong powers of persuasion (especially if Mercury is in good aspect with Pluto and/or the Moon) and a memory keen enough to remember the smallest of details (especially if Mercury is well connected to Saturn and the signs Cancer or Virgo are involved).

When Mercury progresses through the signs and houses of a chart, these intellectual endowments shower down upon us, pointing to areas in our life where we may benefit from this small but potent planet's influence. Mercury's speed is variable. He may move just minutes of arc a year (when he is coming into or going out of retrograde) or he may speed along in his orbit at an annual rate of more than two degrees. You will really need to check out your ephemeris to see how long or how short Mercury's duration over a particular point in your horoscope will last. Please keep in mind that when we measure the orb of secondary progressions, we are taking *one day* of planetary movement as found in the ephemeris and equating it with *one year* of influence in terms of our lives.

What can be said in general about Mercury's progressions is that they give opportunities for communication and mental expression. Keep in mind that the meaning of all progressed planetary positions that you are looking at the unfolding and development of planetary energies in your life. In effect, you are participating in the never-ending motion of the heavenly bodies through their orbits. And as the planets revolve in space, so do you! It is through our progressed horoscope, that we get the opportunity to experience the influence of planet-sign-house combinations that are different to the one's into which we were born. A trip through life on Earth is also a trip through life in the heavens, the interpretation and road map to this journey is what the science of astrology is all about.

Now let's take a look at the specific meaning of Mercury as the "Winged Messenger" flies through your natal map.

Progressed Mercury in Aries: When Mercury is in the sign of the Ram, you are eager to begin new adventures and have new experiences in developing or expressing your communication skills. This can mean taking certain courses or workshops to enhance your ability to get your message across. Remember that Mercury rules schools, especially technical and vocational institutions and Aries likes to get ahead in life! The urge to start new plans and projects and to quicken your activities are other tendencies that come to the fore when Mercury is in this, a sign that is usually quite favorable for this planet. Originality is another keyword in Aries' vocabulary. It is very common for a person to begin a new career, start a new major relationship or begin a new area of study and intellectual interest when Mercury progresses through this sign. The actual form of this "newness" has much to do with the natal house of Mercury's possession. But a caution is in order: Snap judgments and decisions made too quickly are also part of Mercury's influence at this time.

Progressed Mercury in Taurus: The Bull holds Mercury back on his course. Reason

and action must be based on practical considerations, as thinking tends to unfold in a more deliberate and precise manner. The urge to communicate, travel, educate or be educated, is now advancing on a slower but much more decisive path. This is a great opportunity to see how mind and matter fit together and how the individual may succeed (or fail!) in putting his or her ideas in material form. Whatever one learns during the period when Mercury in progressed in Taurus can be a most helpful training ground for future life experiences. This is a “no-nonsense” position and one that can bring a person into contact with information that can have deep and long-lasting effects. It is important to recall that Taurus is the sign of self-worth. Mercury’s activities when progressing through this sign will aid in the formation of those ideas that help us to develop a deeper sense of our own values. But Taurus is a fixed sign, perhaps the most fixed of all and one has to take care not to get bogged down in a sense of self-righteousness when one’s opinions are concerned.

Progressed Mercury in Gemini: The urge to diversify and experiment with life are two of the most obvious traits to be seen when Mercury progresses through his own sign. There is a need to “get out and about”, travel a bit and definitely learn a few new tricks—or even teach a skill or two. The mind is highly charged at this point and the individual is eager to share what he or she knows. One thing for sure, there is a constant need to change and shift activities. The positive side of this progression is that it provides a lot of stimulation and variety; the negative is that there can be too much of these two qualities for one’s own good. Gemini is essentially the sign of relating. It is through the relating of people, ideas, and places that one develops and fosters intelligence both in oneself and in others. Gemini is after all, the sign of schoolteachers--people whose job it is to raise the level of the IQ (“intelligence quotient”) of their students. This progressed position can definitely do the job in us as well if we do not overly diversify and become involved with too many intellectual interests.

Progressed Mercury in Cancer: The Crab should be looked at as “the sign of foundations.” After all it does rule the surrounding psychological conditions of our early life, the effects of our parents (especially one’s mother) and from an esoteric perspective, Cancer and the Moon rule our “biological karma.” When Mercury is progressing through this sign, we will tend to live out old memories and early patterns of communication with our environment. Here is an opportunity to correct any errors that such previous experiences have anchored into our minds and our consequent methods of self-expression. If however, our early experiences were rich in content and quality, then we have an enormous and positive storehouse available to us to use at this particular time in our lives. This planet/sign combination will in any event, create the need for better and more effective communication of one’s emotions and feelings.

Progressed Mercury in Leo: This is a period in one’s life that fosters creativity and self-expression. The mind (Mercury) tends to be very responsive to the inner urge to communicate our true nature and put a personal stamp on all that we say and do. The urge to enjoy life and to create those opportunities to share our inner richness with others is another important tendency during this phase of life. One thing that we have to watch out for when Leo emphasizes the expression of any planet is egocentricity. The ideas and means of communication are very personal at this point and we have to take care that we do not become fixated in our opinions and ideas. It is good to anchor our means of self-expression and create a life that individualizes our own nature but we also have to give room for other people’s thoughts and their influence in our personal environment.

Progressed Mercury in Virgo: Mercury is very pleased when progressing through this other sign of its rulership (Gemini, of course being the other). It is now that our urges to communicate and share our ideas take on the specific goal of learning those methods, skills, and techniques that advance our work and job possibilities. Virgo is the sign of self-

improvement and Mercury's progressed position in this sign helps to quicken our opportunities to do just that—to make something more out of our lives. Our discriminatory function is definitely enhanced by this position as we learn to make the most out of our talents and abilities, refining what we have already learned and becoming more focused in our career orientation. Health is another area of life that is emphasized by Virgo. When Mercury progresses through this sign and is well positioned in terms of the natal chart, we can improve our physical condition and add years of fruitful creativity. We will definitely come into contact with those habits and activities that are not good for us to continue and have the opportunity to eliminate what no longer supports us.

Progressed Mercury in Libra: When the sign of partnership is featured in a horoscope, situations involving relationships rise to the surface for examination. Progressed Mercury in Libra gives us the opportunity to communicate more openly and honestly with the people most important to us. It also presents us with the chance to make new relationships and to define our position and function in other people's lives, especially those with whom we are in intimate contact. It is very important that the developing individual be able to see how “the other side lives.” Progressed Mercury adds to our ability to view life outside of our personal opinions and ideas. At this time, we are increasingly placed in those situations that serve to socialize our perspective, helping us to observe ourselves through the effects we have on other people. Libra is the sign of polarity and thus we can enter into both partnerships and conflicts. In either case, this position of Mercury will help us become more aware of others and our relationship to them.

Progressed Mercury in Scorpio: Transformation is the keyword for any influence of Scorpio in the horoscope. Progressed Mercury in this sign will have the tendency to help us change our opinions about others and ourselves. It is not always easy to change our opinions about life but this is the mandate when Mercury goes through this sign. The death

of non-regenerating thought patterns so that we may birth those ways of communicating and thinking that aid in our own and other people's development is the great gift of Scorpio. This gift comes neither cheaply nor easily, but the successful outcome of the tests of this sign is well worth the effort. Scorpio aids Mercury in this respect by helping us probe more deeply into the truth of both our inner and outer urges to communicate our particular message. Mercury's passage through Scorpio may thus endow one with the "eagle's eye" and aid in our perception into the reality of the world around us.

Progressed Mercury in Sagittarius: The world widens when Sagittarius is emphasized in the horoscope. When Mercury progresses through this sign, the individual is usually eager to widen her horizons. This can involve extensive travel both of the physical and armchair varieties. Physically, the tendency is to leave home and explore the larger world. This leaving home can involve visiting foreign countries, moving to a new location (especially if Gemini or Virgo is on the cusp of the Fourth House), and opening one to cultural influences that take one outside of the influence of one's own ethnic background. In terms of the "armchair" variety of expansion, progressed Mercury in Sagittarius can support the urge to return to college, gain an additional degree or finish the degree that we did not have the opportunity to do in an early phase of life. The important thing to keep in mind with this position is one-pointedness. Sagittarius can take us far and wide, often too far and too wide. But one thing is for sure, during this phase of life, we will encounter a much bigger world than we have known before.

Progressed Mercury in Capricorn: The progression of Mercury through Saturn's sign gives the opportunity to structure the mind in such a way that cohesive mental patterns are developed. It should be kept in mind that although Mercury is the ruler of the communication of thoughts and ideas, Saturn rules the structuring and patterning of these intellectual functions. Without Saturn, Mercury would be even more flighty and unstable

that he is by nature. With Saturn, Mercury matures and brings life and experience into the mind. Thus progressed Mercury through Capricorn can be a period of great mental and intellectual growth. In esoteric astrology, we say that “Virgo’s objective is Capricorn.” One interpretation of this is that all the skills learned through the former sign are culminated in the experiences of the latter. Mercury rules Virgo and thus the methodologies, processes and techniques that Mercury acquires in Virgo can now be put to their fullest and best use in Saturn’s sign. The individual can expect an emphasis on practical achievement during this phase of his or her life and additional opportunities for career-oriented experiences.

Progressed Mercury in Aquarius: There is a very good affinity between Mercury’s sign, Gemini and Aquarius. They are both air signs and thus relate very strongly to the mind and all intellectual outlets and activities. Uranus, the primary ruler of Aquarius is Mercury’s “higher octave.” While Mercury rules the intellect and reason, Uranus rules intuition, a faculty of mind that is one-step higher up on the evolutionary ladder. Thus when the influences of Mercury and Uranus combine, such as in the case of progressed Mercury through Aquarius, intellect has the opportunity to rise up and become intuition. In practical terms, the individual with this progressed position has the opportunity to engage in those mental pursuits that take personal ideas into the impersonal and individual opinions into the realm of the collective consciousness. Not all people with Mercury passing through Aquarius will be able to benefit from this potential however. The evolution of consciousness does take some personal work and effort on our parts, but at the very least this is a time when if such work is undertaken, the results in terms of our mental development can be quite wonderful.

Progressed Mercury in Pisces: On the surface, this is not the most compatible of planet/sign combinations. Mercury is said to be in “detriment” in the sign of the Fish. This means the precision encountered with Mercury “in honor” in Virgo (the sign directly

opposite Pisces) is lost. This is due primarily to the quality of mental dissipation when the rational mind has to swim through the depths of Neptune's realm and consequently reaching into Pisces' world. It is true that although this position is definitely not the best for logical communication and the cultivation of reason, progressed Mercury in Pisces is definitely advantageous for other types of mental activity. This is a very good combination for the metaphysician and student of the occult sciences. It opens wide the door of perception into the unseen worlds and helps to sensitize the mind to subtle energetic vibrations and patterns. On a more practical level, this is a very good position for research of any kind and certainly helps a person to know what other people are thinking. If the individual has had some intellectual training before Mercury's passage into this sign and thus has developed mental objectivity, then he or she is well prepared for the discoveries of the "sunken treasures" now to be found. The opportunity for this experience would certainly be the case as before Mercury has passed into Pisces, it progressed for many years through Aquarius.

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