

A Brief Look at Saturn

When you hear someone talking about Saturn energy what is your first thought or feeling? Do you begin to feel the heaviness of imposed restrictions? Do you imagine an authority figure demanding adherence to a fixed code of behavior? Perhaps you feel a sense of adventure anticipating the tearing down of outworn boundaries, and the building of new, much more useful, boundaries and structures? There is so much myth and superstition associated with the planet Saturn. Let's try to get a handle on some helpful ways of using Saturn energy.

We begin by looking at the position of Saturn in our own chart. What house is Saturn in? This house gives us clues about which structures in our life to keep an eye on. For example, a 4th house Saturn might help us to work on personal boundary issues with other family members. A 6th house Saturn might help us to work on prioritizing necessary daily routines. An 8th house Saturn might help us to work on identifying what is truly our own responsibility (where we should make efforts) and what is really not under our personal control (where we spin wheels).

The sign that Saturn is in may suggest strategies that can help us to effect the desired changes. For example, suppose we are contemplating a move to a foreign country. Will we be able to relate to that culture in a satisfying and meaningful way? (The society in which we live is an enormous complex structure in our lives.) A 9th house Saturn in Gemini might pull together sufficient resources to serve as a basis for making this decision. A 9th house Saturn in Leo would suggest the wisdom of an in-depth visit to evaluate the reality of social interactions in this new environment before making the final move.

What aspects does Saturn make with the other planets in our natal chart? Hard aspects indicate the need for more constant vigilance, and a willingness to do the work, so that we can keep updating the particular boundaries and structures that concern us. Hard aspects goad us on; but that goading can also provoke a lot of growth. Easy aspects generally indicate places in our chart where we can go to feel successful and recharge our own batteries. The trick is to avoid coasting and spacing out.

How can we use Saturn transits to our chart? The most dramatic of these is the Saturn Return -- major events in each of our lives. Saturn cycles mimic Lunar cycles in that it takes approximately 29 days for the Moon to come back to its starting point, and it takes approximately 29 years for Saturn to come back to its starting point. There is a waxing and a waning phase in both Lunar and Saturn cycles. Lunar phases can be used to help us fine-tune how we use (think 'internalize') emotional awareness. Saturn phases can be used to help us fine-tune our plans and strategies in a timely fashion.

Saturn transits to our other natal planets provide yet more opportunities. As an example, transiting Saturn square to our natal Sun in the 9th house might support the needed discipline to successfully study for and pass Law School exams. Too often I hear people jump to a negative possibility when Saturn is mentioned. And any example offered will take on a negative tone. For example, transiting Saturn square to our natal Sun in the 9th house could be thought to foretell a disastrous interaction with authority figures, such as an arrest, court trial, and conviction. (There are always positive and negative possibilities.) It is my conviction that if we use available energy on purpose, and with intention, then that goes a long way towards shaping our own destiny.

Saturn is naturally associated with both Capricorn and the 10th house. Saturn is the ruler of Capricorn. This means that both Saturn and Capricorn tend to focus our attention in similar ways, and on similar issues. Also, both Saturn and Capricorn suggest similar methods for accomplishing whatever needs to be done. For example, both focus on long-range objectives. Clear end-results and careful planning, with well-defined instructions each step of the way, are basic to how both of these energies work.

When we embrace Saturn energy we make detailed plans for our own lives, with realistic steps along the way that enable us to reach our goals. We keep track, day by day, of what is working and what is not working, and adjust our plans accordingly. We do not bemoan a lack of the dramatic, or a lack of spontaneity. We do not procrastinate. We just keep fine-tuning the guidelines of our overall plan, and we keep moving forward.

Drama and spontaneity and laughter are available to us as well -- but these are not Saturn's particular domain. In the land of Saturn energy, methodology and results are always of prime importance, as are methods for measuring those results. We can measure results in time -- ex. How long did it take to accomplish step #2? What is the deadline for accomplishing step #7? We can measure results in space -- ex. How far-reaching is the network we are building? How many human populations can we bring our services to? We can measure results in terms of a value structure -- How much have we improved education in our school?

The 10th house is also a part of this energy blend. Saturn energy in any house, as well as any energy in the 10th house, is very visible. 10th house events are seen by the outside world. This is probably where all the commentary about Saturn representing authority comes from. Hidden authority may be pandered to, fueled by the fear of unknown consequences. But clear authority visible to all (think 10th house) can much more easily be honored and interacted with.

As I am writing this article Saturn is in Scorpio and will remain in Scorpio until late December 2014. No-frills Scorpio energy. 'Fluffy' is not an adjective easily associated with Saturn anyway. Saturn and Pluto are now in mutual reception, since Pluto is in Capricorn -- i.e. they are each in the sign ruled by the other. Saturn and Pluto have teamed up. This is not the time for equivocation.

Saturn through the houses:

House #1 or ♈	The central concern of the first house is self-discovery and self-development based on what is learned. Aries energy is about making something happen, so that there is something to learn from. Building and refining personal boundaries are at the top of Saturn's 'to do' list.
House #2 or ♉	Here we need to prioritize the importance of individual 'things' -- possessions, money, personal values. (There are consequences for not paying the bills on time.) Taurus offers methodology and a pleasing result. Organizing chaos is also very high on Saturn's 'to do' list.
House #3 or ♊	Do others hear us when we speak? Do they want to hear us? Gemini will supply the topics to be discussed. Saturn energy can help us to achieve a better trained voice, and a clearer communication style.
House #4 or ♋	Does the entire family eat dinner together? How do we structure 'family time' and how do we structure 'family responsibility'? Cancer energy will add the candles and chicken soup to the dining table. Who sets the table, and who dries the dishes? Organizing the logistics of just about anything is Saturn territory.
House #5 or ♌	Creative output may appear to an outside observer as effortless, or even haphazard. But it is not. Mastering an art-form requires study and practice and discipline (and a good dose of Saturn energy). Leo energy owns the spotlight and the performance. But who hires the performance hall, sells the tickets, and arranges a clean-up crew after the performance. Administrative tasks are all very high on the Saturn "to do' list.
House #6 or ♍	Daily routines quickly become habits. Too often we develop habits that work against us. Changing a habit is really, really hard work. Virgo energy highlights each gain and each mishap on our road to better habit patterns. Saturn energy helps us to write our own how-to manual.
House #7 or ♎	Relationship with any significant other is a delicate balancing act. Where are the conflicts between WE and ME and YOU? Libra energy brings a possibility for harmony and balance. This is a very difficult how-to manual to write. Thus the square between the 10 th and 7 th houses.
House #8 or ♏	Transformation happens. Scorpio energy is about interjecting our own desire and will into the process. Water energy is difficult to understand in terms of writing a list (a favorite Saturn energy technique). But we can work with intention and will in a very deliberate manner (another favorite Saturn energy technique).

House #9 or ♁	The codes we live by happen here. Sagittarius brings song and dance and play into the mix. How we might structure world harmony is an ultimate Saturn energy goal.
House #10 or ♄	The great stage (seen by all) highlights leadership (including the delegating of power and responsibility), and strategizing, and human achievement, and human suffering. Capricorn energy brings a sense of order in time (history) and place. Saturn energy can help to create both baby steps and giant steps towards a more workable environment.
House #11 or ♊	The whole is greater than the sum of its parts, and people are social beings. What can the group accomplish? A civilization, a community, a library, a birthday party. Saturn energy is needed in the construction of the buildings, and the by-laws, and the individual birthday invitations.
House #12 or ♋	An introduction to the unseen and the unknown. With brief glimpses -- the dream space. People are processed here -- hospitals, prisons, generic institutions. Pisces energy brings un-spoken communication and compassion. Saturn energy is struggling for a foot-hold, but finds its path with the help of meditation practices.

Saturn placements in the early 21st century:

♈	First entered Aug 2000.
♉	First entered June 2003.
♊	First entered July 2005.
♋	First entered Sept 2007.
♌	First entered Oct 2009.
♍	First entered Oct 5 2012.
♎	First entered Dec 23 2014.
♏	First entered Dec 19 2017.
♐	First entered Mar 21 2020.
♑	First entered Mar 7 2023.
♒	First entered May 24 2025.
♓	First entered Apr 12 2028.
♈	First entered May 31 2030.

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