
A summarised excerpt from:

["Your Hidden Powers; Intercepted Signs and Retrograde Planets"- Joanne Wickenburg, AFA, 1992](#)

Mercury Retrograde by Transit

On an individual level, Mercury is the thinking and communicating function and also represents the “phone wires” that keep us on-line with the rest of the world. Communication break downs occur when these phone wires get crossed. The mind, in an attempt to acquire and distribute information, begins to short-circuit creating a need to backtrack to find where the problems occurred.

Due to social pressures, we feel compelled to keep up with the world around us, however when making agreements with a world that has also exceeded its limits, contracts fail to materialise or they are lacking in some way.

The message of Mercury Retrograde is to slow down and assimilate what you have already taken in. This is a time to back-up; to complete, review and revise what you have initiated rather than taking on more than you can realistically absorb. Many of the tasks that you put aside because you didn't have time to deal with, will resurface and force you to confront the results. For example; if you heard your car making strange sounds, but due to time pressures, you chose not to have it checked, you can expect future problems, or if you over-committed yourself, it will become obvious when Mercury turns Retrograde.

The lesson here is to use the Mercury Retrograde to catch-up; take care of unfinished business rather than jumping into something new. Re-evaluate, revise and review what already exists and make corrections where necessary. If you are a salesperson, use this time to re-contact past clients, if you are a teacher, review the materials you have previously introduced and if you are an author, edit what you have already created.

Our society has difficulty with Mercury Retrograde, as our culture is based on progress. Carelessness in production often occurs at these times. Little time is permitted to go backward to review existing materials or products, to find small errors that could create major problems if not discovered retroactively. If and when these problems surface, rather than going back to correct them, society simply replaces them or attempts to cover them up with something new. Problems stack up and mistakes are repeated.

Mercury, when retrograde, wants you to take time out from your hectic schedule to evaluate the importance of the various fragments of data you have accumulated. If you don't welcome these reflective, digestive corrective moments, you become saturated with so much information that you can no longer function properly.

Our clocks are designed to move forward, however the planets, in their relation to Earth, do not always agree with this constant. Astrology gives us the signal that sometimes it is wise to retreat, re-think, re-evaluate and realign ourselves with our planetary energies to reveal what has value. Any retrograde planet deals with this concept of realignment and revaluation and the only time Mercury works against us is when we choose to ignore its message.

If you choose to purchase a motor vehicle during this phase rather than use this time to evaluate whether you need a new car, what type would suit you best, the economics of buying a new car etc., you are choosing to work against the flow of the universe. Not only is your timing off, but the entire world is in transition.

For three weeks at a time, every four months, Mercury is retrograde. Nine weeks in every year when we have the opportunity to slow down and clean up our desks, clean out our closets, dust our minds so that we can function with greater efficiency. We can avoid many inconveniences and frustrations if we mark our diary in advance and use this time to catch up and complete projects of the past.

The first half of the Retrograde Cycle (approx 10/12 days), use this time to complete unfinished business; clear the slate and clean the house at some level. This is the time to edit your life and your activities. Go back over the manuscript of your life and eliminate or enhance the experiences you have acquired. This is the time of fine-tuning.

During the second stage; plan for future action and then when Mercury turns direct, you will be ready to move ahead and act on your plans. By using the messages provided by Mercury throughout its cycle, a well organised, well synchronised, clear mental process is assured.

Don't be worried by delays during Mercury Retrograde as the Universe provides signals to help you reassess what is happening around you. When you force things to happen during these times, you are forced to eventually retrace your steps to make corrections for mistakes, omissions or defects in the original plan or project. Action taken is often premature and important information is missing or misunderstood. Avoid experiencing overload here by using your time to reorganise.

Mercury Retrograde in the Houses

The house in your horoscope through which Mercury retrogrades by transit, describes the area of life requiring review. You are challenged to evaluate what you have been doing and where you want to go in the future, to take care of unfinished business, review the past and to clean out the cobwebs in that room of your life. It is likely that you have over-extended yourself in matters defined by this house.

Mercury Retrograde in the Signs

Water – Cancer, Scorpio, Pisces

This is the time to re-evaluate all matters that influence your emotional makeup. Matters of security, intimacy and the past will be the focus for review throughout this period. Use these times to work at cleaning out your emotional storehouse.

Earth – Taurus, Virgo, Capricorn

Reorganise your practical life, re-evaluate what has value from a material and psychological perspective. Clean up your financial records and bring all practical matters up to scratch.

Air – Gemini, Libra, Aquarius

Mercury in Air signs challenges you to re-evaluate relationships, how you communicate and relate with others. What aspects of your intellect need reorganisation?

Fire – Aries, Leo, Sagittarius

Examine how you go about realising your goals. Creative energy must be re-directed. What has provided enthusiasm and vision in the past may not have the same meaning in the future.

Mercury Retrograde requires you to get some mental distance between yourself and the world around you. This distance breeds objectivity that helps you to clarify and prioritise. The entire retrograde cycle is one of reorientation. Stand back and review what you have already learned in order to get a clear picture of where the future is leading.

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