Mars and Jupiter: paladins of growth

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Itinerary

- Basics of cycles technic
- Phase delineation and experiences
- Calculate and interpret a cycle
- Jupiter cycles
- Mars cycles
- Other considerations

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WORKING WITH CYCLES
Paladins
What is a Cycle?

Cycles is a simple Transits tool. We study one Planet in relationship to its own position in the birth chart.

Using Cycles, we can locate growth experiences in time, to take advantage of them, make decisions and facilitate change processes, with small effort.

That is the astrology I like!
The seed metaphor
The film metaphor
Generic vs. Personal

• **Generic cycles:** each planet has a revolution time around the Sun, which becomes a mark to connect ages and experiences. It’s what we call a return: the planet “returns” to the degree it had in the birth chart.

• **Personal cycles:** we can mark the time when the planet crosses the Ascendant. The energy of the planet emerges onto the First House, and that is kind of second return.
Generic vs. Personal

There is a connection between the time of return (either generic or personal) and the meaning of the planet: something happens according to the planet’s nature.

For the personal cycle, we need to have an actual birth chart, but for the generic cycle all we need to know is how old you are.

In this lecture, I’m going to refer to the Generic Cycles, which lead to very important ages. I will also give clues to personalize this information.
Cycles are the spirals of our lives

• The cycles are evolutionary spirals, watchmakers of processes.

• In the ages we experience the same aspect (conjunction, square, opposition) we are going through the same place, but (possibly) on a superior level.

• If we are conscious, we take advantage of the opportunities and navigate challenges elegantly. If we are unaware, the cycles become in vicious circles.
Cycles are the spirals of our lives

• Cycles are a **tool: frameworks** to understand our life.

• The structure of a cycle does not change: the ages and the “typical” events that happen in each phase are the same for everyone.

• Specific experiences depend on the chart, and obviously on the individual.

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Fundamental cycle: Lunar cycle

• A cycle is an **orderly process**, that has a **beginning**, an **end** and that develops in different **phases**.

• At the beginning of the cycle something emerges, unfolds for a certain time, reaches its maximum expression and then decays, to begin again.

• The **archetypal cycle** is the **Lunar cycle**. The moon describes a dance with the Sun, showing different phases during a month.
Fundamental cycle: Lunar cycle

• The phases of the moon are the base, the **matrix**, to understand all the other cycles.

• New moon, first quarter, full moon and last quarter are instances within the cycle, which show the progress.
New Moon
Conjunction
Beginning ♉

Last Quarter
Waning Square / Recapitulation ♀

First Quarter
Waxing Square / Rooting ♂

Full Moon
Opposition
Balance ♀
Retrogradation, beginning and duration

- Jupiter retrogrades every year, for 4 months.
- Mars retrogrades every 2 years, for 80 days.

- The return begins when the Transiting planets enters the natal Sign.
- When RX, consider the last contact as the beginning.

- Jupiter’s return: lasts for 1 year.
- Mars’ return: lasts from 40 to 80 days.
How to interpret a Return

- What’s being renewed, updated, redefined

- Area of life in which the update process occurs

- Areas of life where you feel the consequences
Jupiter meanings

- Studies and learning in general
- Higher education
- Meaningful trips
- Beliefs, morality
- Worldview
- Long-term life goals
- Experiences of expansion
- Inspiration or dissatisfaction/boredom
- Directions, purpose, life’s sense, Vocation
Ages

• In general, we say that Jupiter takes 12 years, but the truth is that it takes less: **11 years and 10 months** (11 y, 315 days, or 11.86 years).

• This is important because over the years we accumulate a difference in months. By the time of the fifth return, we are one year off: 59 years old instead of 60.

• We say 12 years for the sake of simplicity, but we need to be as precise as possible.
Ages

• If you want to simplify, consider the main age (for example, 35 instead of 36) because the experience of the return will actually take place during the time when we are 35 years old, not 36.
**WAXING SQUARE 🟢**
Hard work, Action, Effort, Roots, Obstacles

**WANING SQUARE 🔴**
Last achievements, Recap, Old goals abandoned, Possible new goals

**RETURN ♂**
Inspiration
Fresh new direction
New life long-term goals

**OPPOSITION ♂**
Clarity, Objectivity
Satisfaction or Frustration
Rectifying

**Waning Hemicycle**

**Waxing Hemicycle**
1 - Return

The return is a moment (1 year) for:
• Inspiration and new direction
• Set new life long-term goals
• Expand in some way
• Update our worldview
• Go for it! (Aries moment)
The seed was planted, new inspiration emerged. The square year is:

- Time to work hard on the objectives set during the return; possible obstacles
- Determined effort, action, energy expenditure
- First consolidations (Cancer moment)
- It is advisable to have realistic objectives: do not overdo
This opposition year means:
• Greater achievements
• Clarity, objectivity, balance (Libra moment)
• Joy and satisfaction, or
• Frustration because of goals didn’t meet
• Possibility of rectifying
4- Last square

Light is fading, cycle gave its maximum:
• Last achievements, reality check about the cycle (Capricorn moment)
• Recapitulate and reconnect with the original inspiration
• We contemplate the path traveled behind our back
• Old goals abandoned
• New horizon, new goals may arise
8-9y, 20-21y, 32y, 44y, 56y, 68y, 80y

Waxing Hemicycle

3y, 14-15y, 26y, 38y, 50y, 62y, 74y

Waning Hemicycle

0 years
11y 10m
23y 8m
35y 6m
47y 4m
59y 2m
71y
83y 10m

5-6y
17-18y
29y
41y
5y
65y
77y
5- Sextiles and Trines

A year where:
• the proposed objectives are on wheels
• years of integration and decanting
Years of discomfort and adjustment, “bottlenecks”: 
• during the waxing quincunx: we see the goal, it is visible, over there on the horizon, but for various reasons we cannot establish it yet, thus we feel frustration 
• during the waning quincunx: we must adjust the original goal in some way, to keep it going (after it, comes the Trine)
Each birth chart is different: there are dominant planets, which attract attention and “color” the chart. For example, there are charts in which Saturn is highlighted; in others, it will be Pluto or Uranus.

When a planet is highlighted, its movements (Transits, Progressions, Returns, etc.) are more noticeable.

In the case of Jupiter, how do we know if your cycle will be prominent?
Personalize it

Some or several of these conditions are met (in order of importance):

- Sagittarius or Pisces Ascendant
- Angular Jupiter: 1st, 10th, 7th or 4th House
- Sagittarius or Pisces Midheaven
- Sagittarius or Pisces Sun or Moon
Cycles stories: few examples

Let’s explore what could happen in each return. These general guidelines are the result of my experience in consultation, in class with my students and from own my reflections.

A comment about **celebrity charts** vs. **private charts**:

- **Celebrity Charts**: pro = public biography, some life events can be checked / Con = personal life is unknown, we don’t know how the person experienced the events
- **Private Charts**: pro = details in personal events, we do know how the person experienced the events / Con = you have to believe the astrologer... ☺
Cycle #1 y #2: 0 to thru 23y 8m

- During our first years, there is the greatest growth and learning of our whole life. We grow, above all, physically, psychologically, we also begin to connect with the world, to exchange experiences between what our family taught us, what we are learning in school and what we know through peers and friends.

- When we are young, the Cycles do not yet have a personal nuance, because in terms of development, we all go through the same stages. Of course, the way we live them depends on the chart, the family, the social context, and how we are living each year.
Cycle #1 y #2: 0 to 23y 8m

- By the age of 18, we can speak of a certain autonomy of the individual, which helps to live the cycles consciously.
- It is interesting to note that the ages of Jupiter coincide with the entrances and exits to school: at 5-6 years (opposition) we start elementary school, at 12 (first return) we enter high school and around 17-18 years we conclude formal education (waning square).
- From this six years period (from opposition to Second Return) we have the first opportunity to make conscious decisions.
Cycle #3, second return: 23y 8m to 35y 6m

• In my experience, the 23/24 years are the first time we can connect with our vocation. Perhaps, the person studied a career, began to work on something that he likes, traveled and knew other ways of living. In these ages, the person can confirm that direction.

• In the cycle, I find two cases among millennials: those who have a clear path, who are already studying or working on what they like… and those who do not know what they want, who are searching without finding their direction. Often, after that age (after the return) they begin to have inspiration for their journey. There hope…
Cycle #3: 23y 8m to 35y 6m

- The experiences of other generations are different because there were clearer commands about what to do or what path to follow in life. Even so, it is likely that, reflecting on that age, they will discover that they were inspired by what they were doing, or, on the contrary, they felt dissatisfaction.
Second Return Example

- Jupiter in Aquarius
- Ruler of 10 and 8

In 1996, when she is 23, she wins a scholarship (H9) to go to Germany, with the exact conjunction. The travels for three months. Back in Argentina, she applies for a job at the German Chamber of Commerce, and she gets the job (Jupiter R10). She worked there for 13 years, and whole Jupiter cycle +1 year.

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Second Return Example

- Jupiter in Virgo in H3
- Ruler of 7 and 10

At 23 she took a sabbatical year, travelled for a month and met many people, had a lot of fun. At the age of 24, she started a job at a medicine company (Pisces MC), in which she started to travel to different countries (Colombia, Peru, Spain) different states of Argentina (Jupiter in H3). At the age of 25, she gets her degree in International Relations, and she meets her boyfriend (relationship that lasted for 10 years).

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Cycle #4, third return: 35y 6m to 47y 4m

- During this return, I observe that a second moment in life is presented to connect with our vocation. It happens 2 years before the waxing Saturn square at 37 and must be read together.

- I define this moment as the “last call”, the moment when we stop “messing around”, because the clock is ticking...

- We have the chance to connect with our purpose in life and align with our true calling.
Cycle #4, third return: 35y 6m to 47y 4m

- So, during our 35-36s we receive the inspiration necessary to direct us to what we really want. This age can be a **turning point** in the career, believes... and everything else Jupiter means.
Third Return Example

- Jupiter in Virgo in H3
- Ruler of 8 and 10

He started many careers, without completing any (technology, business administration, among others). By the age of 35, the month that Jupiter enters Virgo, he returns to college. He starts a new career in Human Resources. He will be graduated soon and is very happy with his choice.
Third Return Example

- Jupiter in Virgo in H3
- Ruler of 7 and 10

She studied astrology for several years in different schools. By the end of her 35s, she completed a postgraduate in Astrology Consultation, and from that moment on, she is focused on becoming a fulltime astrologer. She struggled with that for 2 years, but after the Saturn waning square at 37, she is completely determined to do it.
Cycle #5, fourth return: 47y 4m to 59y 2m

- I find this cycle not particularly important. I believe it’s kind of a “transition” between the fourth and sixth cycles.

- Jupiter still acts offering new perspectives on work, partnerships and knowledge. It’s pretty common that, during this cycle, the person start a new career or specialization.
AD

Fourth Return Example

• Jupiter in Virgo in H10
• Ruler of 12 and 4

He has been a phycologist for many years. By the exact Jupiter conjunction, he began to study astrology. He is kind of tired of his profession, and is looking for an alternative for the years to come.

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She began to study astrology with the waxing square.
Cycle #6, fifth return: 59y 2m to 71y

- This return is remarkable, since it coincides with the second Saturn return, so one might expect great changes. The person may retire from his job (at the return, or during one of the phases: squares or opposition) and this triggers a series of reflections, maybe a crisis, sometimes of the same magnitude as that of the 40s (mid-life crisis).

- In my experience, this crisis is related to vocation. I find that in this age, the opportunity opens to align ourselves with our true calling. Many choose a second or third profession; sometimes, they choose the profession they always wanted to play but that—for family or social pressure—they could not.
Cycle #6, fifth return: 59y 2m to 71y

• A great stage of life is left behind, and new possibilities are opened. We feel the action of Saturn ( endings, closures, great achievements; perhaps, losses or resignations) but we can also feel the inspiration of Jupiter, bringing us a fresh new direction and new life long-term goals... if we hear the calling.

In summary, applying Jupiter Cycles, we have three big moments in our life to align with our vocation: 23-24s, 35 thru 37 and finally 59.
Fifth Return Example

- Jupiter in Cancer in H6
- Ruler of 11, 2 and 3

She worked at different things: Avon, a farmacy, a laboratory. Her final job was at BBVA: she leaves this place with a great compensation. By the age of 55 (waning square) she began her career in Counseling, graduating in 2014, by the return. She is currently working as full time counselor, with energetic technics, biodance, eutony, among others. She also has a radio show.

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Cycle #7, sixth return: 71y to 83y 10m

• I don’t have experience with these returns yet.

• As we advance in age, the way we live the new cycles depends on how we lived the previous ones. If, for example, the person has already retired, this phase might be focused on other things, such us study, travel or writing. If the person hasn’t retired yet, he or she might want to pass some of the life experience, wisdom and learnings to others (children, grandchildren, students, etc.).
This detail is even more important in Mars cycles. I link Mars to job and career activities, but if the person is retired, for example (something we all do sooner or later), it’s obvious that Mars will not express thru work, but thru other projects or activities where we play our energy drive.
Sixth Return Example

- Jupiter in Virgo in H11
- Ruler of 1 and 5

This first job was at a car dealership. He started as an assistant/helper, and ended up as a country manager, handling different branches. By his 74s and because of a conflict with one of his partners, he decided to retire, but to “pass the torch” to next generation, teaching others what he learned over the years.

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Cycle #8, seventh return: 83y 10m to 94 8m

• Again, the way we live these advanced cycles depends on how we lived the last ones. Also, it must be said, that these ages can be creative and expansive if we enjoy good health, both physical and mental.
MARS CYCLE
Mars meanings

In general, Mars has to do with:
• Energy drive
• Actions, decisions
• Self-assertion
• Anger, anxiety

But, I have noticed that Mars also informs about:
• Career and work conditions
• Minor goals regarding health or sports
• Short-term projects and activities
• As a general idea, think that Mars changes Signs every 40 days, so we have a hard aspect every 5 to 6 months.

• During a year, it goes through half of the zodiac and more, but since it goes retrograde for 80 days, this scheme is very irregular. We need an ephemeris to track the exact dates.

• You know where you are at our Mars cycle by simply knowing what Signs it is transiting.
WAXING SQUARE  □
Anger, anxiety, throw everything away. Don’t! write down what’s wrong

RETURN ♂
New concrete, simple, short-term goals Wish list

WANING SQUARE  □
Repetitions, discomfort, face challenges. Recap, Wisdom

OPPOSITION ♂
Objetivity, Balance Redirect energy for the next year

WAXING HEMICYCLE

WANING HEMICYCLE
Mars returns to its natal position every 2 years. I have found that this is a moment (30-40 days) to:
• Set new objectives at work, health or other projects
• The goals set must be concrete, simple, direct
• Make a wish list!
2- Waxing Square

2 to 3 months after the return:
• Time of anger, anxiety, where we feel like throwing everything away. Don’t!
• Register the discomforts.
• When the Trine comes there will be time to negotiate
A year has passed since the conjunction and we are ready to make a balance. The opposition is a moment:

• To check if the plans were well made
• Recognize what went wrong
• Things will be seen differently or have a different thought about the project started
• Redirect the energy
4- Last square

This is a “recap” moment: we are at the top of the mountain and contemplate was accomplished or not. The cycle heads to its closure:

• Repetition of a situation that was thoughted to be resolved, We must face those so you don’t drag them to the next cycle
• It’s not a moment to take decisions, but to see what went wrong and reflect on it
• It’s a phase of wisdom, when the learning is produced, when the experiences decant
Personalize it

How do we know if your cycle will be prominent? Some or several of these conditions are met (in order of importance):

- Aries or Scorpio Ascendant
- Mars in the First House
- Aries or Scorpio Midheaven
- Mars in the Earth Houses: 2nd, 6th or 10th
- Sun or Moon in Aries or Scorpio
Other considerations

Jupiter and Mars position by Sign and House is, obviously, not the only factor to consider. By isolating the planet, we might draw exaggerated conclusions. As always, we might see the planet in context. Besides the actual chart, we can pay attention to some details that will help us narrow down Mars and Jupiter cycles outcomes.
Other considerations

a) Elements: predominance and lack
b) Natal aspects to Mars and Jupiter
c) Dignity
d) Planetary Sect
e) Other Transits
a) Elements: predominance and lack

The predominance or lack of an Element can affect the way we experience these cycles (and, all cycles, for that matter):
a) Elements: predominance and lack

**Fiery** and **Aery** charts are more prone to respond actively to Mars/Jupiter energy due to its nature: extroverted, oriented to action and communication. When these elements are emphasized in a chart, the person reacts right away. With *predominant Fire*, for example, when hearing the description of the return moment the person might “yes, I’m already living it”... and the return hasn’t come yet 😊. With **Air**, I notice that the person begins to inform himself, ask others because he feels a new direction is arising.
Elements: predominance and lack

**Earthy** and **Watery** charts are more calm, cautious, focused on results and emotions, and therefore the movements of Jupiter and Mars can bring sudden change, can break the tranquility, habits and stability. With **predominant Earth**, it might be difficult to take off and let the inspiration do its work, because of the Earth Signs need for security. Mars/Jupiter cycles push us into unknown territories, something that Earth doesn’t like (unless they can secure a profit). With **predominant Water**, the person sees the opportunity, but needs the support of their loved ones, or needs to act motivated by faith.
a) Elements: predominance and lack

The lack of an Element can change the process as well:

• Fire: when its missing, the person doesn’t trust their guts, is not familiar with the energy required for the initial actions of a project. Therefore, inspiration (Jupiter) and decision (Mars) may cost more effort.

• Air: there might be a dependency in information. The person asks everyone what to do because he feels unsecure, and may delay decisions, new beginnings (Mars) travels and studies (Jupiter) because he wants to make it “right”.
a) Elements: predominance and lack

- **Earth**: decisions, energy applied to projects (Mars) and inspiration (Jupiter) can go to extremes. The person either starts things and makes decisions without measuring the consequences or doesn’t start at all.

- **Water**: the person my act independently and even egoistically (Mars) or acts moved by his believes, without consideration of other points of view (Jupiter).
b) Natal Aspects

Jupiter and Mars in the birth chart are in a Sign, a House and receive aspects from another planets.

This can modify their expression. When they return to its natal position, they activate those aspects, bringing ease or challenge.
c) Dignity

When Jupiter and Mars are in favorable Signs (domicile, exaltation), the process of the returns and the subsequent aspects will bring easy changes. For this, I consider the classical rulerships:

- Jupiter in Sagittarius, Pisces and Cancer
- Mars in Aries, Scorpio or Capricorn

When these planets are in their detriment Signs (exile, fall), the process or the return and the aspects might be more challenging:

- Jupiter in Gemini, Virgo or Capricorn
- Mars in Libra, Taurus or Cancer
d) Planetary Sect

Another dignity factor to consider is Sect. Planetary sect greatly affects the condition and effectiveness of the planets, thus, the process of the cycles.

Briefly, for those not familiar with the concept, the planets are grouped into two “sects” or “parties”, dominated by a luminary: the diurnal sect –ruled by the Sun– and the nocturnal sect –led by the Moon.

The other planets are located in a group, according to their affinity or contrast with the leader.
d) Planetary Sect

Under the Sun party, we find Jupiter and Saturn: the first by affinity, the second by compensation. Under the faction of the Moon, we locate Venus (by affinity) and Mars (by compensation). Mercury doesn’t belong to any sect.

This is important because Jupiter’s cycles will be more beneficial in diurnal charts (the planet is in sect) that in nocturnal, whereas Mars’ cycles would be profitable in nocturnal charts (sect in favor) but has little effect or can even be problematic in diurnal charts.
d) Planetary Sect

Nevertheless, the cycles point to specific ages when important things can happen.
e) Other transits

The effect of a cycle may be covered by other major transits, such as those of Saturn or Pluto. Keep in mind that Cycles are a general tool. It is likely that several transits are concurrent at the same time, which may favor or cancel what is expressed by the return.
MARS and JUPITER CYCLES COMBINED
Mars and Jupiter combined

• Mars cycle is interesting because it helps us to breakdown a big cycle (Jupiter/12 years) onto small periods of 2 years.

• Mars’ cycles combined with Jupiter’s are a way to see how the energy drives, desires, passion and will (Mars) manifest the long-term goals and believes (Jupiter). Mars acting out Jupiter.
Mars and Jupiter combined

• Also, it’s very interesting how Jupiter and Mars cycles are intertwined: their cycles coincide. A little time before or after we have a Jupiter return, we have a Mars return; sometimes, they are several months apart, but they happen very close to each other.
inspiration
is NOTHING
without action
Astrology is knowledge and experience at the same time. We are seeds that unfold in time, in permanent dialogue with heaven, which witnesses our birth and drives us to new levels of growth.

Thus, Astrology becomes a life practice. And Cycles are a tool that reveal our evolution path, pointing out where and when we have opportunities for growth.
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