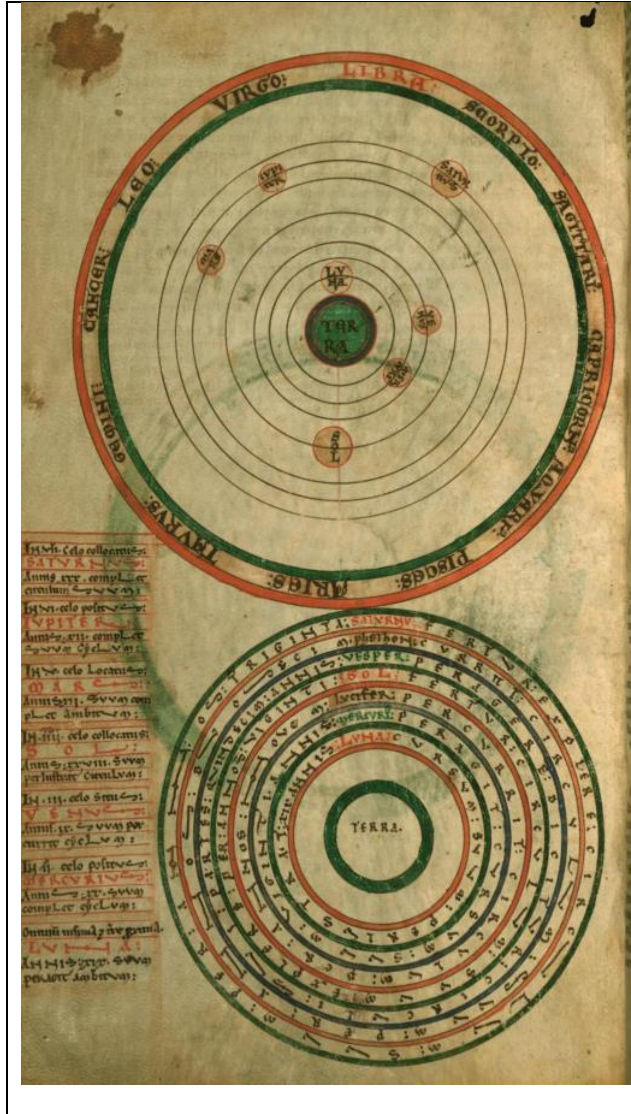


Time Share

Generic Transitions through the Life Cycle

by Brian Clark



Astrologically, we use the word “generic” to identify critical ages in the life cycle. Since the term implies what is characteristic to a whole group, generic transits categorize times in planetary cycles that are applicable to everyone. While the word has come to suggest a lack of brand, nothing special, or having no distinctive quality, *gene*, the root of the word, implies familial and tribal genetics. Therefore, these junctures in time, common to us all, are specialized age-related initiations that our ancestors also experienced.

Generic transits occur for individuals in the same age range and generation. These generic times are instinctual to all human beings, like an inbuilt clock that chimes the hours and stages of life. From its Latin roots, the word “generic” references familial and biological groups, reminiscent of the natural, organic, and innate shared moments that are embedded in each planetary cycle.

Generic implies commonality, not individuality; therefore, this assists us to differentiate generic from personal transits. Personal transits are those specific to our horoscope, like transits to angles, the luminaries, inner planets, or through the houses. Generic transits refer to the times when social and outer planets aspect their natal placements (or each other); these are passages “common to all human beings by virtue of the fact that they have reached a specific age.” [1] Both personal and generic transits can take place simultaneously due to specific natal aspects. When this occurs, the personal situation is overwhelmed by the weight of the deeper transition taking place. We will amplify these potent transits later in the article.

Aspects that the slower-moving planets forge in their cycles demarcate crucial times. Using the 4th-harmonic aspects of the waxing square, the opposition, the waning square, and the return to the conjunction, we uncover an organic schedule of critical turning points and phases of the life cycle. As the timetables of Neptune and Pluto are slowest, their generic cycles can be subdivided into 8th-harmonic aspects – with midpoints between the four critical phases identifying four additional periods of time to consider in these planets’ cycles. This could be extended to include other aspects in the unfolding cycle; however, the four main directional points remain the most important transitional periods.

Generic Transits and Planetary Cycles

Planetary cycles most commonly used to demarcate the generic phases of life include social planets Jupiter and Saturn and outer planets Uranus, Neptune, and Pluto, along with the lunar nodes, the progressed Moon, and Chiron. Their returns symbolize homecoming: the simultaneous maturation of one cycle and the initiation of the next. Squares and oppositions within the complete cycle represent the turning of the cycle towards home.

Astrologers imaginatively move back and forth through time when considering planetary passages. To keep the integrity of the cycle intact, we must imagine time from a multidimensional, systemic perspective. Journeying through the life cycle, using the template of the generic transits, allows us to revisit, revision, and reconnect with past times in our evolving story. We can also imagine the narrative at the milestones that lie ahead, as well as contemplate how our parents and ancestors navigated these life passages. Each planetary cycle has its own unique archetypal essence, so let’s begin by considering how these planets traverse the landscape of the life cycle and contribute to its evolvment.

Saturn and the progressed Moon are valuable markers, as they measure cycles of 29.5 and 27.3 years, respectively, defining three distinct stages of emotional and structural development.

1. Youth Childhood, Adolescence, and Young Adulthood
2. Maturity The Adult phase, including Midlife and the Fifties
3. Seniority The Elder phase, including Old Age

These stages parallel family life chapters of child, parent, and grandparent, while also highlighting common stages of communal life, such as training, work, and retirement. Three cycles map out the current lifespan for many individuals living in developed countries: Three cycles of the progressed Moon measure 82 years, while Saturn’s three cycles encompass 88 years. Each quarter of the cycle marks a significant

graduation in emotional and ethical maturity, informing the subsequent phases in the current and successive cycles.

The Progressed Moon Cycle

The progressed Moon trisects the life cycle into three phases of 27.3 years each. Critical aspects in its cycle mark important ages of emotional attachment and maturation, sensory development, as well as turning points in the family life cycle. Using a matrilineal metaphor, we can imagine these phases as described in **Table 1**.

Table 1: The Progressed Moon Cycle

<i>Phase</i>	<i>Emotional Maturation through the Life Cycle</i>	<i>Age in Years</i>	<i>Matrilineal Metaphor</i>	<i>Lunar Image</i>
1	Childhood, Adolescence, and Young Adulthood	0-27.3	Maiden/Heroine	New/Crescent Moon
2	The Adult phase, including Midlife and the Fifties	27.3-54.6	Mother/Creatrix	Full Moon
3	The Elder phase	54.6-82	Crone/Wisewoman	Dark Moon

Picture the progressed Moon as an image of containing, filling, and emptying the feeling life, developing emotional maturity and strength, as well as cultivating our attachments throughout life. Therefore, the returns at ages 27, 54, and 82 are potent inductions into attachments, self-care, memorabilia, and the continuity of life. For instance, I have always been struck by how many female clients at their second progressed lunar return have told me dreams, which include images of their childhood home, a beloved doll, their grandmother’s grave, or their mother’s favourite dress – images that evoke the continuity of their feelings of attachment and feminine self, which stimulate reflection on their current life phase.

Recently a 54-year-old client said she did not recall her dreams, but reported she was having spontaneous images from her childhood come to consciousness. I asked her to describe one: “A bright-coloured dress I loved to wear when I was seven,” she answered. “Were you happy then?” I asked. “Yes,” she emphatically answered. She reached back to a memory of her younger self beneath the unhappiness of this current time. At age seven, life was difficult, yet her feminine spirit and passion, evoked through her brightly coloured dress, was dancing and joyful. She felt happiness buried under layers of responsibility.

I am on alert for emotive images, memories, feelings, and reactions at these ages, as astrological intelligence reveals that they are potent periods in our emotional development and wellbeing.

The Transiting Saturn Cycle

Transiting Saturn also trisects the life cycle into three phases. Critical aspects in its cycle are counterpart to many physical, structural, familial, and social passages centred on separation, maturation, progress, and the development of autonomy and personal responsibility. Whether this synchronizes with an outer experience, such as the first full day at school, adolescent anguish, leaving home, or a personal crisis, Saturn's turning points confront us with our mortality, our accountability, and our necessity. [2] Each initiation inducts us into the boundaries and laws of life. Using a patrilineal metaphor, we could conceive of these phases as listed in **Table 2**.

Table 2: The Transiting Saturn Cycle

<i>Phase</i>	<i>Authority and Integrity through the Life Cycle</i>	<i>Age in Years</i>	<i>Saturnian Stage</i>	<i>Patrilineal Metaphor</i>
1	Childhood, Adolescence, and Young Adulthood	0–29.5	Early Life Structure	Apprentice/Hero
2	The Adult phase, including Mid Life and the Fifties	29.5–59	Adult Dependability	Father/Architect
3	The Elder phase	59–88	Elder Care	Tribal Leader/Wiseman

Saturn's cycle builds, maintains, and sustains the structures and systems of our life. In this way, its generic cycle throughout life shapes our autonomy and self-regulation, exposing us to familial and social norms and how these support and undermine our authentic self. Each critical passage in Saturn's cycle is a step towards our own self-management and personal responsibility, a phase that entwines independence with separateness and tradition with rebellion.

The Nodal Cycle

The lunar nodes also map out the lifespan. Four nodal cycles span 74–75 years, which is the average life expectancy in many other countries. The midpoint of each nodal cycle threads the transiting North Node together with the natal South Node, and vice versa. This time delineates significant ages of spiritual illumination and self-knowledge.

The cycles of the lunar nodes divide the life cycle into phases of 18.6 years each. We might think of these phases as the development of our vocational quest and the calling to create a meaningful and purposeful life. Each phase is tempered by spiritual growth and understanding.

Table 3: The Nodal Cycle

<i>Nodal Phases</i>	<i>Age</i>	<i>The Soul's Quest</i>	<i>Midway: ♋/♌</i>
The Physical Quest	0-19	Preparation: Embodiment	Age 9
The Emotional Quest	19-37	Incubation: Felt Experience	Age 28
The Psychological Quest	37-56	Fruition: Authenticity	Age 46-47
The Spiritual Quest	56-75	Realization: Ensoulment	Age 65

The nodal cycle is counterpoint to planetary movement in that its passage through the zodiac is retrograde. Hence, nodal initiations are experienced in a different way. At the ages of their returns, there is often an otherworldly, transcendent, or synchronous psychic experience. While our focus may be on career, lifestyle, satisfaction, and pleasure, nodal returns are counterpointed times to our material life. Even though the experience may have been material or embodied through an illness, accident, encounter, or episode, a calling to the greater meaning of our lives is evoked. In consultations, I have heard many stories of when these times synchronized with a spiritual awakening, a significant encounter, or profound feelings that deepened or changed the course of life.

The Jupiter Cycle

A Jupiter cycle is nearly twelve years; each one differentiates a unique developmental phase of life. To be precise, Jupiter's cycle is 11.88 years; therefore, the consistency of the return at multiples of twelve years wanes in later life.

In nearly 84 years, or one Uranus cycle, Jupiter completes seven returns. Alchemists considered seven stages in the alchemical opus; likewise, we might consider the seven cycles of Jupiter as transformative passages in the composition of life. Jupiter's role in the symphony of the life cycle is the cultural and conscious development of being both an individual and a citizen. Each twelve-year period defines a particular stage of education, expansion, vision, and application of knowledge. Each cycle maps distinct chapters of conceptual and psychological development, including our quest for meaning and the integration of our beliefs, ethics, and principles. The midpoint of each cycle engages us in recognizing and revisioning life's possibilities.

Recently, when I was amplifying a Jupiter transit with a client, she mischievously kept asking for exact dates when to buy lottery tickets. We laughed, as it was evident how we humans categorize positive and negative events. The current passage for her was difficult. Why would any ending be easy, and why would Jupiter hand out a get-out-of-jail-free card? Yet the lottery was her metaphorical ticket to the possibilities that lay ahead. This proved to be an evocative analogy for her current Jupiter opposition.

Table 4: The Jupiter Cycle

<i>Jupiter Cycle</i>	<i>Age Span</i>	<i>Life Passage</i>	<i>Age at Opposition</i>	<i>Age at Return</i>
1st cycle	Birth to age 12	Childhood	6	12
2nd cycle	12-24	Adolescence	17-18	23-24
3rd cycle	24-36	Young Adulthood	29-30	35-36
4th cycle	36-48	Midlife	41-42	47-48
5th cycle	48-60	Middle Age	53-54	59-60
6th cycle	60-72	Seniority	65-66	71-72
7th cycle	72-84	Eldership	77-78	83-84

Jupiter's returns and oppositions are organic times of learning, comprehending, revisioning, and yet also times of justice, virtue, ethics, and meaning. These are life lessons, and at each return we find ourselves in Jupiter's classroom preparing to graduate. Literally, primary school starts at the Jupiter opposition; secondary school begins at the first return and ends at the second opposition. This pattern of learning remains throughout life. I note these times with clients, as the return is a potent exercise in revisioning the next cycle. Sitting with a 35-year-old and envisioning the next cycle to 47 can be challenging, yet also highly valuable. I break this forward picture into short-term (one-year), mid-term (three- and six-year), and long-term (twelve-year) possibilities. Each Jupiter return contains the end, yet also an initiation into possibility. Helping clients with their homework in the lessons of life can be enormously satisfying.

The Uranus Cycle

Another planetary cycle spanning life is Uranus. Its orbit of 84 years highlights its squares and oppositions as critical turning points in our process of individuation.

Table 5: The Uranus Cycle

<i>Planetary Cycle</i>	<i>Age at the Waxing Square</i>	<i>Age at the 1st Opposition</i>	<i>Age at the Waning Square</i>	<i>Age at the 1st Return</i>
Uranus	20-21	38-42	61-63	84

The generic cycle of Uranus separates the life cycle into four quarters, metaphoric of the four seasons of life. At these critical ages, we are jolted out of structures and systems that confine our vision in order for us to experience a freer and progressive life. We might suggest a fourfold division of life defined by the Uranus cycle, as seen in **Table 6** .

Table 6: Four Stages of the Uranus Cycle

<i>Season of Life</i>	<i>Stages of the Uranus Cycle</i>	<i>Age at the Critical Phase</i>
The Spring of our Awakening	From birth to the Waxing Square: Ages 0 to 20-21	20-21
The Summer of our Experimentation	From the Waxing Square to the Opposition: Ages 20-21 to 38-42	38-42
The Autumn of our Inspiration	From the Opposition to the Waning Square: Ages 38-42 to 61-63	61-63
The Winter of our Freedom	From the Waning Square to the Return: Ages 61-63 to 84	84

The Neptune Cycle

Based on its last cycle, Neptune spends just under 13.5 to 14 years in each sign, steadily progressing through the zodiac. Neptune’s cycle of 165 years does not return in one lifetime; therefore, its passage connects us to ancestral time, times unbound by physical laws.

The first half of the Neptune cycle synchronizes with three cycles of the progressed Moon. This harmonic orchestrates transiting Neptune sextiling itself in time with the first progressed Moon return, and trining itself at the second progressed Moon return. This synchrony in the life cycle occurs at ages 28 and 55, close to the second nodal opposition and third nodal return.

Neptune’s critical phases reintroduce us to the divine. That is, its cyclical turning points are often experienced as an emptiness or meaninglessness, inviting us into another dimension of connection. At these turning points, we are initiated into a soulful dimension, even if that is sad, bereft, or problematic. Soul is found in the depth of feeling. [3] Due to the slower-moving nature of Neptune, we can define the critical phases by the 8th-harmonic aspects. These phases synchronize with the Uranus cycle.

Table 7: The Neptune Cycle

<i>Stages of the Neptune Cycle</i>	<i>Critical Phase</i>	
From Birth to the Waxing Semi-square (ages 0–21)	21	At similar ages to the Uranus cycle, the Neptune cycle confronts us with the widening gulf between the abstract and the real, fiction and fact, literality and imagination. Our creative and spiritual longing seeks a place to belong in the material world.
From the Waxing Semi-square to the Waxing Square (ages 21–41)	41	
From the Waxing Square to the Waxing Sesquiquadrate (ages 41–62)	62	
From the Waxing Sesquiquadrate to the Opposition (ages 62–82)	82	

The Pluto Cycle

Pluto’s 248-year elliptical orbit creates an uneven passage through the zodiac signs, spending the most time in Aries and Taurus and the least time in Libra and Scorpio. While the waxing square of Neptune occurs for us at age 41, the Pluto square is different for each generation. For instance, the square for the Pluto in Aries generation occurred as late as their early 90s, whereas for the Pluto in Virgo generation, it occurred in their mid-30s. We cannot pinpoint the square at a common age, but we can surmise that the archetypal mystery initiation will be similar and that all Pluto generations will experience a journey – a descent into the Underworld.

Table 8: The Pluto Cycle

<i>Generation</i>	<i>Approximate Dates</i>	<i>Experiences Pluto Square Pluto</i>	<i>Approximate Ages</i>
Pluto in Cancer	1912–39	Pluto in Libra	45 to 61
Pluto in Leo	1937–58	Pluto in Scorpio	38 to 45
Pluto in Virgo	1956–72	Pluto in Sagittarius	36 to 39
Pluto in Libra	1971–84	Pluto in Capricorn	35 to 40
Pluto in Scorpio	1983–95	Pluto in Aquarius	40 to 49
Pluto in Sagittarius	1995–2008	Pluto in Pisces	48 to 59
Pluto in Capricorn	2008–24	Pluto in Aries	58 to 73

Pluto conjures images that lie underneath, hidden from view — that which is unconscious or overlooked. While Pluto may symbolize the generation's emotional intention and integrity, it also points to what lies unacknowledged and underrated by its citizens. Although the Pluto square is a generic transit, it is also personal as it confronts an unknown aspect of our generation's ethos that has been taken for granted by us.

I have seen four generations experience their Pluto squares. My Pluto in Cancer parents had their square during their 50s as Pluto was transiting Libra (1971-84). The integrity of the traditional family unit was being challenged by rising divorce rates, social liberation, and broken-down households. The Pluto in Libra generation — born during the massive social changes in sexual and relational attitudes — is experiencing its square while Pluto transits Capricorn, and the reality of the relationship contract is hitting home. Being free in relationship has its price!

My own Pluto in Leo hedonistic yet idealistic crowd faced its square at midlife as the AIDS epidemic, abuse trauma, and rape revelations challenged the ethics of self-interest and the cult of celebrity. I watched my older Pluto in Virgo kids reach their square in their mid-30s as Pluto entered Sagittarius and the Internet revealed an endless and chaotic stream of information that could not be controlled. This analytical, evidence-based generation encountered a world that was opening up on so many levels, and its members had to grapple with the shadow of widespread, universal, and cross-cultural data. This saw a huge change in the way information became micro-managed and compartmentalized — each detail was diagnosed, every symptom analyzed. And now the Pluto in Scorpio generation are on the cusp of their first squares, as Pluto enters Aquarius for the first time in 2023.

Because of the long sextile of Pluto and Neptune, these generations will receive the transit of Pluto to natal Neptune during their 20s. For every person from each generation, it is a critical quarter-life initiation into the Underworld of their dreams and ideals, a time of self-disclosure and discovery.

Like Pluto, Chiron has a very elliptical orbit; therefore, its generic transits are timed particular to the natal sign, like a personal transit. What is key is its return at age 50 for each individual, marking an important transition to greater self-acceptance and less self-judgement.]

Rites of Passage

Childhood, adolescence, adulthood, the midlife crisis, the 50s, later life and seniority have been explored by anthropologists, sociologists, and psychologists who

have charted the life cycle. So often, their theories echo the astrological wisdom inherent in the generic transits.

In the early 20th century, anthropologist Arnold Van Gennep wrote *Les Rites de Passage*, [4] bringing attention to the need for ritual, celebration, and acknowledgement of the passing of time. Temporal time is accentuated by the awareness of age and ageing. Generic transits pinpoint ages when transition between different ways of being naturally occur. At these passages, the gap between what is passing and what is to come is suspended, which is commonly referred to as liminality. There is a loss of continuity and coherence; hence, there is a strong need for ritual to commemorate this passing of time.

Using critical aspects in the following cycles, let's highlight approximate ages that characterize significant developmental stages:

1. The oppositions and returns of Jupiter and the lunar nodes:

Planet	Ages at Oppositions	Ages at Conjunctions (Returns)
Jupiter	6, 18, 30, 42, 54, 66, 78, 90	12, 24, 36, 48, 60, 72, 84
Nodes	9, 28, 46-47, 65	19, 37, 56, 75

2. The waxing squares, oppositions, waning squares, and returns of the progressed Moon and Saturn:

Planet	Waxing Squares	Oppositions	Waning Squares	Conjunctions (Returns)
Progressed Moon	Ages 6-7, 34, 61	13-14, 41, 68	20-21, 47-48, 75	27-28, 54, 82
Saturn	7-8, 36-37, 65-66	15, 44, 73	21-22, 51-52, 80	28-30, 56-59, 87-88

3. The Chiron return and the waxing square, opposition, waning square, and return of Uranus:

Planet	Waxing Squares	Oppositions	Waning Squares	Conjunctions (Returns)
Chiron	<i>Cycle dependent on natal placement</i>			50
Uranus	Age 21	39-42	63	84

4. The waxing semi-square, waxing square, waxing sesquiquadrate, and opposition of Neptune. These aspects for Pluto are of interest but are particular to each generation:

Planet	Waxing Semi-Square	Waxing Square	Waxing Sesquiquadrate	Opposition
Neptune	Age 21	41	63	82
Pluto	<i>Cycle dependent on natal placement</i>			

Between ages 19 and 24, the generic transits of many cycles converge, highlighting this life phase. At this time, the initiatory rites of passage are not only familial or social, but transpersonal and collective as well. Up until then, initiatory ages are emphasized in the *pass-ages* of Childhood and Adolescence:

Ages 6-8: First Jupiter opposition, progressed Moon and Saturn waxing squares

Ages 12-15: First Jupiter return, progressed Moon and Saturn oppositions

Ages 18-19: Second Jupiter opposition, first nodal return

Opening the third decade of life are a medley of major planetary aspects preparing and cultivating the ground for adulthood, such as the progressed Moon waning square, the Saturn waning square, the Uranus waxing square, and Neptune's waxing semi-square. Our 20s close with the completion of the first progressed Moon and Saturn cycles.

From our mid-30s to early 40s, a cluster of planetary cycles merge. Their cycles return us to the adolescent passage; for instance, the progressed Moon waxing square at 34 and the Saturn waxing square at 37 echo the squares first experienced in childhood between 6 and 8. Emotional, physical, or psychological difficulties from this time may be recollected in an adult context. These cycles are significant aspects in the midlife passage. We stand in between adolescence and later life. The astrological images allow us to travel back and forth to consider these times more consciously and appropriately.

Table 9: Cycling through Life

Cycle	Adolescence	Midlife	Later Life
Jupiter Return	12	36 and 47	59 and 71
P Moon Opposition	14	41	68
Saturn Opposition	15	44	73
Nodal Return	19	37	55-74
Uranus Cycle	square at 21	opposition at 38-42	square at 61-63

Neptune Cycle	semi-square at 21	square at 41	sesqui-square at 62–63
---------------	-------------------	--------------	---------------------------

Rituals are conscious practices and actions that honour the solemn sense that something profound is shapeshifting in us and in our life. They assist us to understand and undertake the transition. For a culture bereft of rituals, these in-between natural life-chapters often pass with no acknowledgement; therefore, it is important for individuals to cultivate a sense of ritual to navigate their own passages of time. Astrologically, planetary cycles are key to differentiating these times.

Personal and Generic: Inner and Outer

The slower-moving planetary cycles delineate personal, social, and collective times. One of the ways these planets become personalized is by their aspects to the inner planets. When an outer planet – for instance, Neptune – is conjunct an inner planet like the Sun, the collective nature of the archetype permeates an individual’s personal experience. Their identity is awash with transpersonal sensitivities and feelings. Hence, when the generic transit of Neptune square Neptune occurs at age 41, transiting Neptune also squares the Sun. The Sun-Neptune aspect is recapitulated individually and collectively; inherited social and ancestral themes intermingle with personal ones, perhaps drawing out a sacrifice of one’s identity for the greater good, acknowledging one’s creativity in a communal context, volunteering, or identifying a psychic gift. As the individual voice is enmeshed with the collective, the personal identity is fused with their generation through time.

Astrological wisdom helps us to filter the personal complexes and difficulties from those intrinsic in the life cycle. This helps to normalize the experience, placing it in the context of the organic process of ageing.

Generations: Same Archetype, Different Voices

Each generation has its own voice, fashions, styles, movies, and music. Heroines, poets, writers, and artists of every generation frequently identify with and express their peer group’s values, idioms, symbols, and obsessions via their creative life. As the pace of technological innovation accelerates, the gap between generations seems to widen. Once the generation gap was considered to be around 30 years; today it is reputed to be half that!

Regardless of gender, race, nationality, or sexuality, each generation experiences a version of “childhood’s end,” a “coming of age,” a “midlife crisis,” and “retirement.” The context is different for each generation, yet underneath the perceivable variations lies the same template for each human being, illustrated by the generic transits. Astrology helps

us to reflect on the archetypal nature of the felt experience of these passages, as well as generational qualities and characteristics that are challenged at these times.

Today the concept of “generation” seems more studied than in times past. Gertrude Stein coined the term “Lost Generation,” having witnessed the disenchantment of the generation whose adolescence and youth were scarred by World War I. In the aftermath of the war, a generation of lost souls struggled to reconcile their disillusionment and aimlessness. One of these was Ernest Hemingway, who used Stein’s phrase as an epigraph to his novel *The Sun Also Rises*.

Ernest Hemingway’s natal Mars in Virgo was square to Pluto in Gemini and Saturn in Sagittarius [5] – hence the generic cycles of Saturn and Pluto would reconfigure the natal T-square through time. Though his novels, Hemingway spoke to his generation about the many faces of Mars. As a member of the Lost Generation, he voiced the themes of resilience and strength in the face of war, its brutality, what it was to be male, and the concept of masculinity. His writing was personal but spoke to a generation affected by war. As he approached his Saturn return, which opposed natal Pluto and squared natal Mars, his book *The Sun Also Rises* explored these themes. Just after his Saturn return, *A Farewell to Arms* revisited them.

The Lost Generation was born between 1883 and 1900 and came of age in the early 20th century. This coincided with a collective awareness and sociological identification of “generations” with discrete climates and characteristics. Many from this generation shared Neptune and Pluto in Gemini, which conjoined in 1891–92, and also recognized Hemingway as a voice of their generation. In his chart, Neptune and Pluto are still within an orb of nine degrees, and Neptune is also squaring Mars. During Neptune’s first square and transit to Mars, Hemingway released another book on the brutality of war, *For Whom the Bells Toll*, which also reflected on the morality of war. It was 1940, and war was again engulfing the world.

Since the early 1940s, as Neptune and Pluto began a 100-year-long sextile and entered signs around the same period, we have seen both planets work in unison to define each generation. We can differentiate sub-groups in these generations by the sign of Uranus and, even more specifically, by using the sign of Saturn as a subset of the generation. **Table 10** lists the generations with their approximate Neptune and Pluto signs.

Table 10: Neptune–Pluto Generations

<i>Generation</i>	<i>Alias</i>	<i>Dates</i>	<i>Neptune Generations</i>	<i>Pluto Generations</i>
The Greatest Generation	The G.I. Generation	1901–1927	♃ in ♈ (1901–1916) ♃ in ♉ (1914–1929)	♇ in ♈ (1912–1939)
The Silent Generation	The Lucky Few	1928–1945	♃ in ♊ (1928–1943)	♇ in ♉ (1937–1958)
Baby Boomers	The Me Generation	1946–1964	♃ in ♋ (1942–1957) ♃ in ♌ (1955–1970)	♇ in ♊ (1956–1972)
Gen X	The Baby Bust	1965–1980	♃ in ♍ (1970–1984)	♇ in ♋ (1971–1984)
Gen Y	Millennials	1981–1996	♃ in ♎ (1984–1998)	♇ in ♌ (1983–1995)
Gen Z	Zoomers - The We Gen	1997–2012	♃ in ♏ (1998–2012)	♇ in ♍ (1995–2008)
Gen Alpha		from 2012	♃ in ♏ (2011–2026)	♇ in ♎ (2008–2024)

Returning Home

Astrological returns are especially poignant: Consider the returns of Jupiter at age 12, 24, or 35, the lunar nodes at 19 or 56, Saturn at 29–30, or Chiron at 50! The planet returns home, but what does the planet come home to? What we return to is our individualistic and authentic expression of the planetary archetype that has just undergone a full cycle of development, ready to move on to the next stage of its growth. These returns reconnect us to the organic and original nature of this planetary archetype; these are times when we can naturally re-envision the next cycle from a more authentic and meaningful perspective. For instance, we might reflect on these returns as:

- Jupiter: The Return to Hope and Faith
- Saturn: The Return to Autonomy and Self-Determination
- Lunar Nodes: The Return to a Higher Purpose and Vocation

- Progressed Moon: The Return to the Harbour of Home
- Chiron: The Return to Our Authentic Humanness

The whole life cycle is punctuated by interludes, divinely outlined by the generic transits. Whether personal or generational, all transitions are fostered by ritual. Being mindful and ceremonial of our generic transitions facilitates leaving one stage of life for another. This assists us in coming home to our humanness in the context of our generation, our ancestors, and our collective.

References and Notes

1. Alexander Ruperti, *Cycles of Becoming*, CRCS Publications, 1978, p. 18.
2. I am using the word “necessity” in respect of the goddess Ananke, who personifies constraint, inevitability, and necessity.
3. For a more in-depth exploration of soul and astrology, see Brian Clark, *Soul, Symbol & Astrology*, Astro*Synthesis, 2019.
4. Arnold Van Gennep, *The Rites of Passage*, tr. Monika B. Viedom and Gabrielle L. Caffee, The University of Chicago Press, 1960.
5. Astrodatbank rates Hemingway’s birth data as AA (from his mother’s scrapbook): July 21, 1899 at 8:00 a.m. in Oak Park, Illinois, USA.

© 2021 Brian Clark – all rights reserved

