

Mercury Retrograde Periods for 2004
Compliments of Stacey Dean, PMAFA, C.H.T.

What is Mercury Retrograde? About every three months, Mercury slows down in its orbit around the Sun, and appears to be moving backwards. Astrologers refer to the transit as “Mercury Retrograde”. This phenomenon occurs four times in 2004. During Mercury Retrograde periods, all communications and transportation are negatively affected, i.e., regrettable decisions, misunderstandings, arguments, delays, and accidents.

While Mercury is Retrograde, it is not the best time for major purchases such as *new* homes, autos, boats, computers, etc., because these items are usually financed and/or require signing a contract. Signing a contract during Mercury Retrograde can bring regrets stemming from something said that is misunderstood or misrepresented.

Because of the increased possibility of accidents, changes in schedules, and lost luggage, *it is best not travel during Mercury Retrograde*, not to mention the fact that you won’t enjoy the trip. I’ve got years of experiencing disappointments with this one. Now, I just will not travel when Mercury is Retrograde.

Mercury Retrograde affects everyone in some way. However, the Sun Signs that experience more difficulty than most are Gemini and Virgo, or people with several planets in the signs of Gemini or Virgo because Mercury rules these signs.

The best action to take during a Mercury Retrograde period is to spend the time reviewing the past three months. It is not the time to go forward with *new* plans or goals. *It is the time to “review” what is happening in your life and make necessary course corrections or changes.* A good rule to remember is...any word you can put “re” in front of, and have it make sense, then do it; examples: reevaluate, repair, rethink, rewrite, replace, reschedule, revise, redecorate, review, etc.

Period of Influence: Planetary energy doesn’t simply begin at one point in time and abruptly end at another; consider observing the dates listed in the last column.

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(*Dates and Times Below Are Eastern Time Zone)

*Dates and times given below are for Eastern Time Zone. To convert to your time zone...
*Central Time - subtract 1 hr. *Mountain Time - subtract 2 hrs. *Pacific Time - subtract 3 hrs.

| Begins | Sign | Ends | Period of Influence |
|-------------------|-------------|-------------------|----------------------------|
| 12/17/03 11:01 AM | Sagittarius | 01/06/04 08:44 AM | 12/07/03 – 01/16/04 |
| 04/06/04 04:28 PM | Taurus | 04/30/04 09:05 AM | 03/28/04 – 05/10/04 |
| 08/09/04 08:33 PM | Virgo | 09/02/04 09:09 AM | 07/31/04 – 09/12/04 |
| 11/30/04 07:17 AM | Sagittarius | 12/20/04 01:29 AM | 10/20/04 – 12/31/04 |

Stacey Dean, PMAFA, C.H.T.

The Cosmic Reporter

Las Vegas, NV 702/739-7899 * Chicago, IL 773/561-6717

5035 Celebrity Circle

Las Vegas, NV 89119

Email: StaceyDean@msn.com Website: www.staceydean.org