

# **PAST LIVES, KARMA & YOUR HOROSCOPE**

## **By Judi Thomases**

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Is it possible to see past lives in the horoscope?

Perhaps. Although there are no hard and fast “rules” for doing so, an intuitive practitioner can often find correlations that transform a static wheel into a living story of abilities, challenges, and leftover debris from the past. Inherent gifts as well as troubling repetitious patterns speak to the astrologer of a person's efforts to utilize potential and learn lessons in this life that are carried over from a previous journey. While one might need a little psi ability to actually see a past life, one can certainly use reason and intuition (two good astrological words) to figure some things out.

### Clues to Karma and Past Lives

It goes without saying that foremost among the clues to past life baggage is **the South Node** of the Moon, since that is a point signifying one's previous exploration of earth life. Its sign and house placement tell of both wisdom gained and achievement lacking. Western astrology almost always uses a negative interpretation of this point, as though here is where you left off in spiritual evolutionary terms; on the other hand, Vedic astrology understands this point positively, in the sense that you have completed this aspect of experience and are no longer attached to it. Either way, this represents old business, a “been there, done that” kind of meaning, forcing you to focus on new potential and greater wisdom through its opposite point, the North Node. The North Node, then, is your *Way*, or *dharma*; it is your agreed-upon direction from this position forward, and will require effort and “stretching” in order to fathom and grow.

### SOUTH NODE PLACEMENTS BY HOUSE AND SIGN

Keeping in mind Western astrology's negative interpretations of the South Node as the point of previous experience yet to be purified and transcended, here are some thoughts about possible reincarnational lessons to be confronted and processed when divining a person's current karmic predicament, looking at **different house placements for the South Node**:

South Node in the first house indicates that a person was overly self-absorbed and self-centered, and perhaps too self-reliant. Issues concerning areas of the face might be problematic.

South Node in the second house can indicate materialism, even greed, in the past, or a lifetime in which the lower desire nature and value system were dark and the self-esteem was low.

When the South Node is in the third house, the person was overly intellectual, perhaps relying on logic more than faith, or brains more than heart. There might have been issues involving relatives, neighbors, or the community. The mind was agitated with an excess of trivial thoughts. A gossipy nature is likely.

With the South Node in the fourth house, matters involving property and buildings can be tricky. Family can be a source of discord. The person might have chosen sanctuary and seclusion over a more public role, so that the continuing desire to retreat becomes a predicament.

When the South Node is in the fifth house, if children ensue they may be unloving or uninvolved. The pleasure principle might have been overly emphasized, and should not be made too prominent this time. The person may have shirked responsibility.

With the South Node in the sixth house, there is the likelihood of hypochondria. Physical disease might be overly emphasized. There might also be difficulties through job conditions, co-workers, and even small animals.

If the South Node falls in the seventh house, the person might have given up personal power to be co-dependent and live in the shadow of another. Guilt and over-accommodation are likely.

When in the eighth house, the indicator is that there could be losses of possessions, and there was over-much reliance upon funding from another. Sex and/or occultism might be booby-traps. Brooding upon death is also possible.

To have the South Node in the ninth house is not favorable for long voyages or relocations to distant places. Here the person can be a fantasist or have blind faith, and might have cloistered themselves in a religious institution.

With the South Node in the tenth house, a public role that stoked ego would not be advisable now. Fame and prominence were important goals. This soul must build up inner resources, and a more humble role for the purpose of developing the spiritual nature.

When the South Node falls in the eleventh house, friends can be frustrating or false, and others' values or goals distracting. Here it would be better to avoid membership in disadvantageous clubs, groups or organizations, and instead develop creative self-expression.

Finally, when the South Node is in the twelfth house, many secret, even karmic problems can be foremost. The person might have been imprisoned, institutionalized or self-sabotaging, or allowed afflictions of themselves or others to overwhelm.

Looking at **the South Node in its different zodiac signs**, in Aries there was aggression and belligerence, even a warrior lifetime. Relaxation was not understood.

In Taurus, there was excessive materialism or possessiveness, and maybe an indulgence in rich foods. The person might have farmed.

In Gemini, there might have been superficiality, glibness, and an inability to pursue the depth of any subject. The word *dilettante* fits this.

When the South Node is in Cancer, there might be selfishness and possessiveness, over-sensitivity and moodiness, and excessive emotionality and evasiveness. Clinging to apron strings, or expecting that of others. Smothering with "love" would be the description here.

When the South Node is in Leo, there is egotism, grandiosity, the desire to be noticed, and flashiness. *Narcissistic* is an apt phrase.

If in Virgo, the hypochondriac and the overly critical and fussy individual find toxicity in life's daily routines. Nothing is ever good enough.

When the South Node is in Libra, there is codependency. There may not be an ability to know who one is, separate from a partner or an important tie. And there is excessive indecisiveness.

When the South Node is in Scorpio, the fight between devil and angel might have been lost, leading to a lust for power or a deeply held resentment. This person usually keeps score.

When the South Node is in Sagittarius, too much risk-taking, rash behavior, and poor judgment can lead to a lack of stability. The person tends to gamble with resources.

If the South Node is in Capricorn, selfishness and ambition merge with the desire for domination. A reserve and coldness would linger. The person might have abandoned family in pursuit of profit.

When in Aquarius, the individual might be too eccentric, rebellious, removed from daily intercourse, and may continue to be quite willful and stubborn. The word *kook* might fit.

When the South Node is in Pisces, here is someone who might have escaped through substance abuse or fantasy, or who might be overly sensual and not fully grounded. *Space cadet*, anyone?

Bear in mind that the South Node also indicates the lessons endured and the skills honed. Thus, in these house and sign placements each of these dire framings also carries **the potential of past wisdom and earthly talents**. From this perspective, Aries offers courage, Taurus perseverance, Gemini sociability, Cancer nurturance, Leo leadership, Virgo discernment, Libra artistry, Scorpio power, Sagittarius vision, Capricorn reliability, Aquarius genius, and Pisces spirituality.

To correctly analyze a person's horoscope in terms of past lives, the astrologer may pick equally (and validly) from the negative choices or from the positives.

#### SOUTH NODE PLACEMENTS TO PLANETS

Now let's look at how planets conjuncting the South Node give further insight into past life attributes. From the range of possibilities, worse so would be those planets that were afflicted by aspect or sign placements (e.g., detriment).

When one's Sun conjuncts the South Node, a male likely played a dominant role in one's past, and it was important to express your personal essence during the lifetime.

Similarly, the South Node conjunct one's Ascendant mandated expressing your personality to the fullest, even being a celebrity. This time, partnerships will be essential (North Node conjunct Descendant).

When one's Moon conjuncts the South Node, a female likely was deeply important, probably but not always a family member. Sensitivity and emotionality were significant ingredients of that lifetime. Family ties were close and may remain so into the present.

Mercury conjunct the South Node indicates a past life as a communicator, writing or speaking, and a young male such as a brother or a buddy played a big part. Talent with language continues.

Venus conjunct the South Node shows artistic talent being brought forward, and the likelihood of a loving tie with a sister figure.

If Mars ties to the South Node, belligerence and courage were marked. The person could have made their mark in war or leadership but might not have polished his/her people skills. The energy system is dynamic.

If Jupiter holds this position, fine ethics, good character, and embodying a positive role model bring protection and luck into the present. The person might have been a respected member of society, even a religious leader or guru.

If Saturn conjuncts the South Node, much restriction and responsibility weighted down the past, and the person might be fearful, stingy, cold, or meek. Death by starvation was possible. Caring for one's elders might have been uppermost. Poverty-consciousness now needs to be overcome.

If Uranus conjuncts the South Node, here is a revolutionary or activist participating in crusades and causes that sought to overthrow the existing order. The person may eschew normalcy and pursue iconoclasm. Willfulness remains hard to dissolve.

Neptune conjunct the South Node can indicate either a life of drunkenness or as a psychic! The person might have been mentally ill or over-imaginative. In any case, weakness and impressionability must be overcome.

When Pluto hovers near the South Node, an abuse of power – wielded by you or foisted upon you – occurred. You might have tried your hand at research or dug mines. Great resources were at your disposal. You may have been a tyrant, a bully... or a physicist!

If the South Node is conjunct the person's Midheaven, see above regarding the tenth house. If it conjuncts the IC, see above regarding the fourth house.

#### DETERMINING THE AGE OF THE SOUL

The age of the soul can be seen by **the extent of love, kindness and compassion** in the horoscope, such as softness, sweetness, sensitivity and spirituality (being careful to distinguish these from plain old gullibility). Markers of vindictiveness, cruelty, or selfishness would announce a younger soul.

Many planets or angles in late degrees can indicate the completion of a cycle of lives – not, however, one's "last life", a common mistaken declaration of young

souls. Many lifetimes are required to complete a particular cycle of growth and wisdom, with such a pattern of many late degrees showing a wrap-up of this specific lesson. (Many more lesson cycles are still to come.)

Similarly, a chart with **lots of** planets and angles at very early degrees often indicates that a person is beginning a fresh cycle in their continuing reincarnational passage. It rarely indicates, however, that the person is a baby soul, altogether new in his/her human journey.

## SATURN & KARMA

The support or abrasiveness of **Saturn** – teacher, taskmaster, and Lord of Karma – often suggests how wisely or irresponsibly you handled your karmic predicaments.

Funk & Wagnall's defines karma as "the doctrine of responsibility for all one's acts in all incarnations that explains and justifies good and evil fortune". Wikipedia explains it thus: "the principle of causality where intent and actions of an individual influence the future of that individual." Some schools of philosophy define karma as accruing when one removes another's choice. A Buddhist teacher, Thich Nhat Hanh, explains karma as cause and effect, together in one entity, a pair of opposites to be transcended, continuing throughout time and space. In essence, in a closed energy system wherein energy cannot be lost, only transformed, karma is vernacularly described by the phrase, "What goes around, comes around."

To reincarnate is to confront your karma.

To create karma is to be forced to reincarnate.

The placement of Saturn in a horoscope might tell you about your accrued wisdom status. Is Saturn kind to you (trines and sextiles) as a reward for your learned patience and maturity? Or is he harsh with you (squares and oppositions), demanding accountability and consequences? Rest assured that old souls can have difficult Saturn aspects. That's because, as an older soul, you are more ready to take on the challenge of karmic comeuppance.

Saturn is not showing us the age of the soul but rather how experiences have been handled. Hard aspects require karmic rebalancing. If you harmed another, you must either accept a form of restitution (i.e., repairing the harm you inflicted), or wear the other shoe to see how it feels to be on the receiving end of such an action.

Since every soul in their earliest reincarnational travels undoubtedly harmed another before learning earth's hard lessons, it's interesting to realize that people often wait for a much older, wiser lifetime to address these early transgressions. Such horoscopes might reflect great struggles along with alleviating blessings. Often there are several major aspects playing off each other, such as two or three t-squares balanced by a grand trine or even a kite formation. Thus, the life is tough but full of awareness and aid. The older soul has gained the wisdom necessary to face the test. Many of my astrological friends say, "Was I nuts? What was I thinking of?!", when full realization of this type of central choice hits.

## GOALS, VALUE SYSTEM, AND REINCARNATION

Yet another indicator of past life development might be the person's goals and dreams. These are harder to skry but as a general rule, more idealism and less materialism is the gauge of the older soul. Look to the ninth (values) and eleventh (goals) houses, to the North Node, or to planets referring more to love and beauty rather than pleasure and desire.

For example, Neptune conjunct either of the lights, Venus in Pisces, and the Sun or Jupiter in Sagittarius in late degrees trine a personal planet would tell of an evolved, gentle and wise soul. On the other hand, Pluto in Capricorn second house square Mars/South Node in Aries with a "loaded" Scorpio eighth house might indicate a hostile, manipulative and greedy individual.

### CASE STUDIES

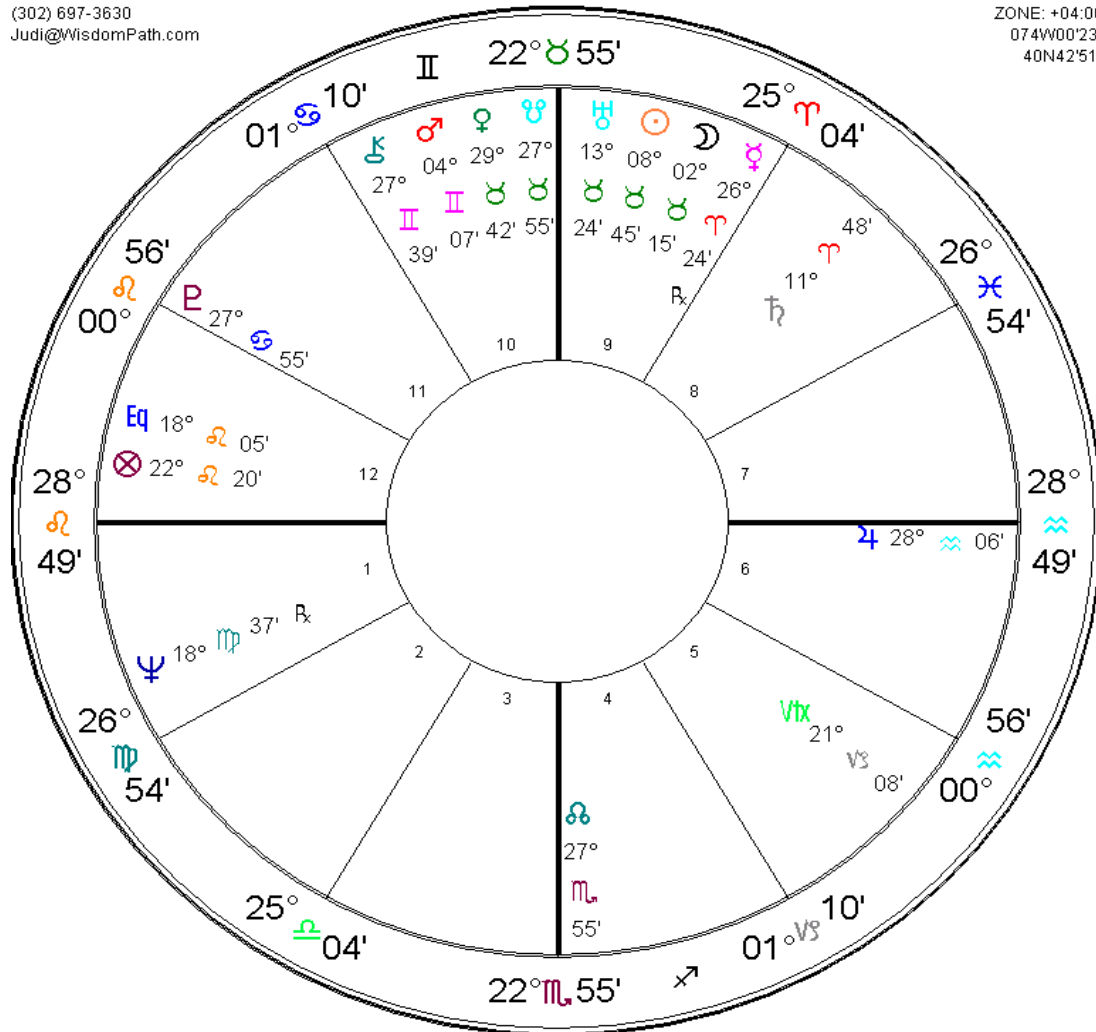
The concept of a soul's age is worth our deep consideration in chart interpretation because, not only do we go after dissimilar goals depending upon our soul maturity, but we handle our challenges (transits) differently and tend to make better choices with our current options as we evolve. The more past lives, the older the soul. The older the soul, the greater the wisdom.

The subject of soul age is well delineated in a non-astrological book called "Messages from Michael", by Chelsea Quinn Yarbro. Young souls, who are often very accomplished and successful, pursue lower goals such as power, fame, status, or wealth. Older souls pursue goals such as self-expression, beauty, peace, and service. Keeping in mind that everyone has Saturn in their chart somewhere, and is thus dealing with trials, our assessment as astrologers is to figure out from the horoscope who is who. The following examples might help:

#### **Example of a Younger Soul**

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 40N42'51"



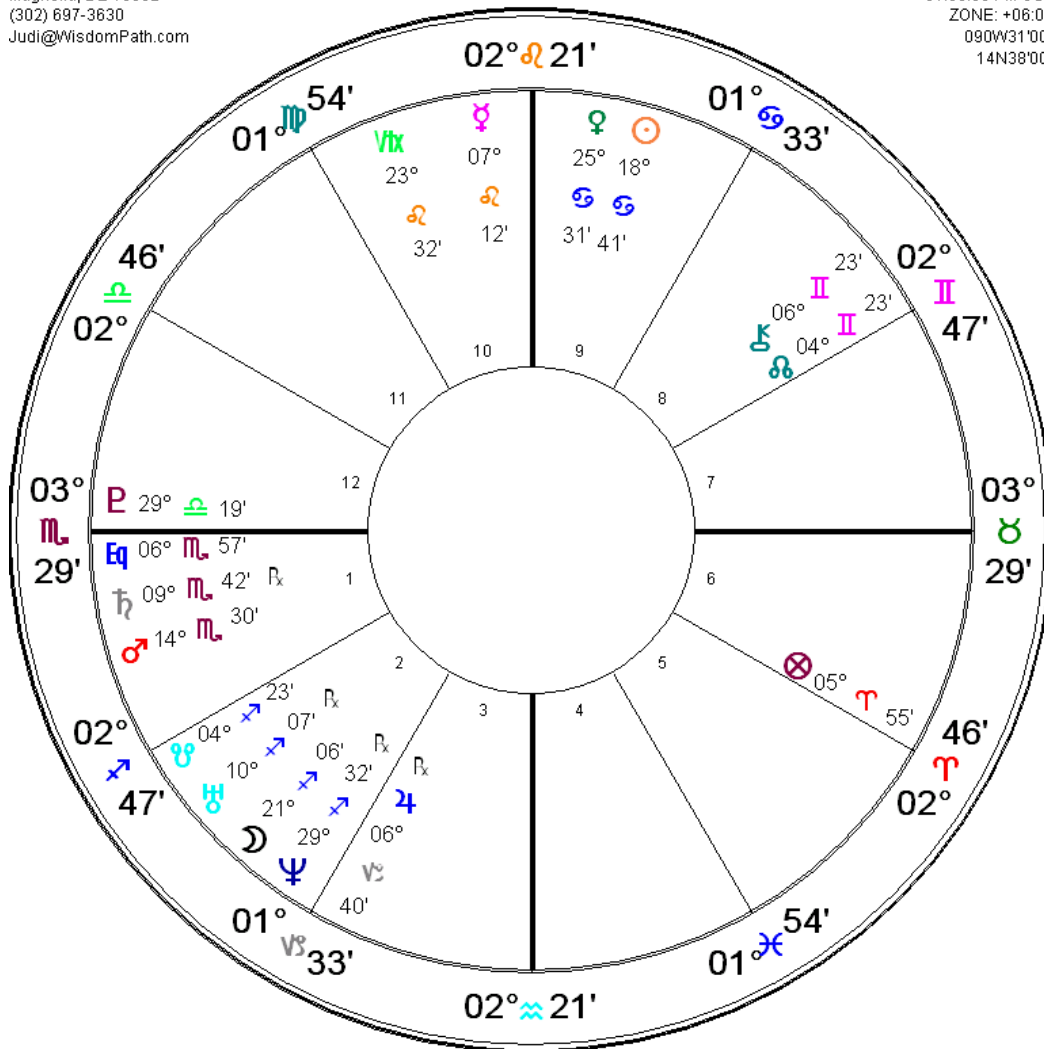
Note the extreme emphasis on materialism (Moon, Sun, Uranus, Midheaven, South Node, and Venus in Taurus; Venus at 29° Taurus), the self-indulgence (Venus in t-square to Ascendant, and Jupiter), the cynicism and obsessiveness (Mercury square Pluto), and the egotism (Leo Ascendant in Grand Fixed Square to Venus, Jupiter, and North Node). This was a fresh start of incarnations (New Moon birth) to deal with the past issue of greed regarding other's assets (Node in Scorpio), but obviously it was not handled wisely. This is the horoscope of Bernie Madoff.

**Example of an Older Soul**



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 14N38'00"



Note the healing Chiron/ Node conjunction in the eighth house, the rebellious but visionary-teacher Sagittarian influence from the past, the Moon/ Neptune and Neptune/ Jupiter conjunctions, with Neptune at Sag's last degree, and the loving Sun/ Venus conjunction in the Cancerian ninth house. This woman is a young tarot professional and student of shamanism. The prominent Saturn placement in the first house, heavily afflicted yet helped by its sextile to Jupiter, and the equally prominent Pluto placement angular at the last degree of Libra in the twelfth indicate the weighty karma that must be rebalanced during this lifetime.

**Karma Between Charts**

It is almost always in contrast to other people that we play out our reincarnational dramas. No article such as this would be complete without a look at obvious karmic patterns between charts. One person's planets to another's South Node indicate a bit about the nature of past life relationships, dependent of course upon the harmony or affliction of aspects to the planet(s).

## CHART A's PLANET TO CHART B's SOUTH NODE

Sun: a husband or very important male tie.

Moon: a mother or wife, but in certain cases, a sister or aunt.

Mercury: a brother or friend; a mental tie; in certain cases, a cousin or relative.

Venus: a love, a sister, a benefactor, a creative collaborator.

Mars: a rival, an enemy.

Jupiter: a protector, a teacher, a benefactor.

Uranus: a provocateur; a disruptor; an antagonist.

Neptune: a guide, a miracle worker, a guru; or a helpless dependent figure.

Pluto: a counselor; a catalyst; an overlord.

## SATURN &amp; THE NODE IN SYNASTRY

**Saturn is a special case of past life tie.** He brings many lessons. He can be a father-figure, but is often a taskmaster. If aspects are good, he has come to support you. If aspects are harsh, he will crack the whip until you bend in humility and learn his teachings. *Here are some worst-case scenarios.*

If another person's Saturn is on your South Node in Aries, that person stifled your initiative, and made demands on your energies.

In Taurus, limited your finances, and took away your comforts.

In Gemini, held you back from social activities, and perhaps made you stutter.

In Cancer (in detriment), starved you, or withheld mothering.

In Leo (in detriment), stole your thunder, and cramped your style.

In Virgo, made you dot every "i" and cross every "t", and caused you health worries.

In Libra (in exaltation), took away your chance at marriage, and chastised you for your choices.

In Scorpio, hindered your sexual gratification, and perhaps blocked your funding.

In Sagittarius, stood in the way of your freedom, expected adherence to his beliefs, and planted resistance to risk-taking.

In Capricorn (in rulership), was extra strict, exacted remuneration, and schooled you in propriety.

In Aquarius (in co-rulership), put limitations on your friendships, and held you responsible for others' disadvantages.

In Pisces, quashed your fantasies, and made suffering unbearable.

To be fair, each of these combinations, be they plutonic or mercurial, confusing or demanding, or otherwise, has been arranged by both parties before birth and designed to complete the karmic mission of this cycle. You have gone around together before, maybe multiple times, and you're doing so again... and again until the karma is resolved and you both gain from the interchange.

**“Buy” Yourself Some Good Karma for Your Next Life!**

By seeing a person's karma, goals and level of wisdom, you'll have a good sense of how advanced that soul is, and roughly how many rounds they probably have had on the wheel of existence. This, in turn (short of gaining sudden clairvoyant ability), tells you something of their past lives.

If anything is to be learned, it is that to accelerate your accumulation of wisdom is to evolve beyond old karmic lessons and accrue better luck for your next go-round. You can't escape your karma... but you can transcend it!

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Astrologer, psychic and channeler for over four decades, frequent contributor to Dell Horoscope magazine, featured guest on ABC, CBS, Sirius, Judi Thomases' own inner voice of spiritual guidance is The Brotherhood of Light Workers. Her newest book, ***“The Wisdom Keys”***, can be purchased on Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and Balboa Press. Judi is available for private consultations - contact [judi@wisdompath.com](mailto:judi@wisdompath.com) for more information.