

## **Understanding the Jupiter Return in Leo: Tales of Bravery, Excess and Brilliance** by Samuel F. Reynolds

When Jupiter left his exalted, comfy barrel in Cancer for his den in Leo on July 16<sup>th</sup> this year, we met a very different Jupiter. This is even more important for those folks who were born with Jupiter in Leo since they're about to have—or are having—what's called a Jupiter return.

First, to understand the return, we have to understand what to expect with Jupiter in Leo. Then we can examine what kinds of things to expect during a return. I will also look at charts of six notable figures with Jupiter in Leo to see how their natal potentials and actual returns tell any stories of bravery, excess or brilliance. I'll be looking at the charts of boxing champion Joe Frazier, award-winning singer Johnny Cash, beloved Pope John Paul II, the ever-bold comedian Whoopi Goldberg, the extravagant astrologer Walter Mercado and author Neale Donald Walsch.

### **Jupiter Roars into Leo**

While traveling in Leo, Jupiter pounces on the scene with bravura, creativity, playfulness and charisma. It's time to show and tell the world what you're about! This is why I call Jupiter in Leo the path of "Self-Expansion." (I've developed a unique Jupiter Return report with paths for each of the 12 signs of the Zodiac, like the Path of "Feeling Good and Safe" for Jupiter in Cancer.) Jupiter in Leo dares natives to become more, create more, and present more of themselves. There's a strong desire to be large and in charge.

And that's where the trouble begins with Jupiter in Leo. If the large-and-in-charge impulse is too rooted in worldly and material affairs, then it loses an important opportunity to expand, embrace and love more of our higher selves. If a native forgoes that opportunity, then he or she can become more of a bore or a self-centered person who seems to focus only on his or her needs and desires. This might also increase a flair for the dramatic or a need to have attention.

There's a way out toward the higher-self aspect of Jupiter in Leo, though. If there's a creative outlet of some kind, a Jupiter in Leo native can put that energy to work, rather than focusing on satisfying the whims of his or her ego. The best way to think about Jupiter the Teacher here is as telling a play or story about one's life that isn't only about the native. Yes, of course, where a Jupiter in Leo focuses his or her attention dictates how the life story is told and who is cast as the actors to tell that story. However, the key lesson for the Jupiter in Leo native to learn is that she's not the star anymore than the other stars in her own life-movie. She's one of them.

As Jupiter returns for those with a Jupiter in Leo, there will be important reminders to focus Jupiter's light to tell a cosmic story of self-expansion better. This will require nothing short of one's bravery and brilliance—all the while avoiding excesses—to remind others that we are all co-creators of life, like the Sun, Leo's ruler, symbolizes. Nonetheless, those slips toward excesses are always what make Jupiter returns trickier than we think.

## What to Expect During a Jupiter Return

This is what's commonly said about Jupiter Returns: "About every 12 years, Jupiter comes back to meet your natal Jupiter. 'Many Happy Returns!' we wish others, and Jupiter's return is usually a lucky year. The abundance flows and you seem to be in the right place, at the right time....often." I culled that from a website that speaks on Jupiter returns. However, my experience of Jupiter returns after five years of studying them has been very different from what's commonly said. In fact, how I got involved in studying them was from tragic circumstances.

My curiosity about Jupiter returns was piqued upon realizing that the police gunned down Amadou Diallo and Sean Bell, both non-suspects and unarmed 23 year-old Black men, right at the cusps of their second Jupiter returns. Over the course of the years, I've looked at hundreds of Jupiter returns, and I can assure you that a lot of them don't end up as "lucky years" for natives. Of course, one has to make allowance for individual transits and progressions for each chart, but I've also noticed a trend that's reframed my understanding of Jupiter returns.

It might be better to frame a Jupiter return as when we're directed to appreciate and develop our gifts. If we're prepared to meet that opportunity (and at least one opportunity will present itself), then we can experience more of Jupiter's graciousness and gifts. However, if we're not prepared to appreciate or address those gifts, we might step toward excess, waste, and carelessness that could lead to our own undoing. There's no guarantee of luck or goodness without our own willingness. The money just won't fall from trees or flow from rivers of gold. Jupiter's a giver, but it appears he prefers to do match funding.

Likewise, all Jupiter returns are not the same I've found. Over an 84-year period, each of the seven Jupiter returns has different themes, issues and virtues to cultivate. Here's a table below with the return, themes, issues and virtues to develop along with the appropriate age range for the return.

<u>Jupiter Return #</u>	<u>Theme/Issues/Virtue</u>	<u>Age</u>
<i>I</i>	<b><i>Apprenticing the Call</i></b> Straining to hear the call amidst raging hormones and peer pressures. <i>Virtue to cultivate: Wonder</i>	11-12
<i>II</i>	<b><i>Answering the Call</i></b> Opportunity knocks, but are you undistracted enough to open the door? <i>Virtue to cultivate: Inspiration</i>	23-24
<i>III</i>	<b><i>Crossing the Threshold</i></b> Heard the call, seen your gifts, but are you prepared to do whatever it takes? <i>Virtue to cultivate: Courage</i>	35-36
<i>IV</i>	<b><i>Into the Belly of the Beast</i></b> In the middle of life. Show and tell time, or your faults will show and tell <i>Virtue to cultivate: Hope</i>	47-48

<b>V</b>	<p><b><i>Rededication to the Call</i></b></p> <p>Releasing the past to follow fiercely the light on the other side.  <i>Virtue to cultivate: Grace/Mercy</i></p>	59-60
<b>VI</b>	<p><b><i>The Emerging Elder Calls Forth</i></b></p> <p>You struggle to become a beacon for others...and yourself  <i>Virtue to cultivate: Patience</i></p>	71-72
<b>VII</b>	<p><b><i>Completion and New Beginning</i></b></p> <p>You have fulfilled the life course <u>set</u> for you. You <u>create</u> the next one.  <i>Virtue to cultivate: Freedom/Adventure</i></p>	83-84

The reader will notice that there's a progression of the story being told with each Jupiter return. It seems only fitting since Jupiter, the ruler of storytelling Sagittarius, helps weave a tale together. I've come to see the Jupiter returns as representing how the call of one's higher self to present one's gifts allows a person to intersect and expand at multiple levels of their biological, cultural, social and spiritual heritage—much like a dot expands outward into a widening spiral. At each return, one integrates more and more into the community and cosmos from whence one has originated. This is why each return is precious and important.

Of course, there are individual contributing factors to a Jupiter return that determine how “successful” each return will be in helping a native integrate his or her gifts into society. Of course, it also depends on whether the native is heeding the necessary lessons of his or her Jupiter. Here are three factors to consider:

- **Sect:** Jupiter is better able to help with the full integration of one's gifts if he's above the horizon in a natal day chart and below the horizon in a natal night chart.
- **Aspects:** What planets aspect Jupiter, by natal position? For example, a natal Mars squaring Jupiter changes how a person experiences his or her impetus to share gifts.
- **Dispositorships:** What planets disposit natal Jupiter? From what houses? What houses does Jupiter rule in the natal or return charts?

Generally, I give six months on either side of the actual Jupiter return by degree for a person to experience the meaning of the return. A simple reason: Jupiter retrogrades for five months every year, so it's likely to be closer to the literal return by either side of six months. Likewise, although it's instructive to draw up return charts, whether using precessed charts or not, I find that a clearer predictive understanding comes more from meditating on the natal Jupiter factors. Remember each return expands on particular gifts rather than only what a transiting Jupiter and other planets may have to say.

### **Actual Jupiter in Leo Returns**

The best way to see a Jupiter in Leo return is in action. Here's a quick breakdown of six notable figures and how they manifested their Jupiter in Leo at a particular return.

**Johnny Cash**, February 26, 1932, 7:30 am, Kingsland, Arkansas, A

One of the most celebrated musicians of his generation and the last century, Johnny Cash's chart illustrates why, as a child of Jupiter by Sun and rising sign, his Jupiter in Leo would play out prominently at many of his Jupiter returns. Cash heard the call of his demonstrative Leo Jupiter at 12 years old when he started writing songs and playing guitar. At his second return at 24, he made good on his talents and had his first hit. At the time of his third Jupiter return at 35, he found himself divorced from his wife and in a spiral of excess with substance abuse. However, recognizing his gifts, is what led him to transform his Jupiter return into one of the most auspicious ones of his life up until that point. His friendship with June Carter blossomed into a lifelong partnership that didn't end until his sixth Jupiter return when he died four months after June did.

**Joe Frazier**, January 12, 1944, 7:00 am, Beaufort, SC, DD

Although the "dirty" birth data we have for Joe Frazier has him with a Jupiter-ruled Sag rising, there's no doubt that a moon applying in conjunction with his Jupiter in Leo would make for a boxing champion. At his second Jupiter return, Frazier became the heavyweight boxing champion of the world. However, 12 years later at his third Jupiter return, Frazier decided to manifest a different version of his Jupiter in Leo by starting up his own soul-funk band, "Joe Frazier and the Knockouts," while touring around the world. Then immediately following his third Jupiter return at 37, his Jupiter in Leo did, in fact, overreach and he attempted a comeback in the ring. It didn't go well, and he retired from boxing for good. Perhaps he should have kept up with his music.

**Pope John Paul II**, May 18, 1920, 5:30 pm, Wadowice, Poland, A

When Karol Jozef Wojtyla became pope at his fifth Jupiter return, he embarked on a number of firsts befitting for his Jupiter in Leo. Not only was he the first non-Italian pope in over 400 years, he was the most travelled—visiting 129 countries as Pope, where he actively used 9 of the 12 languages he knew. Although this is not a story of excess, it is a testimony to his brilliance and bravery, including the resumption of his duties after an assassination attempt in 1980. Fittingly, the man who would become Pope John Paul II started his life as a priest at his second Jupiter return. Aptly, Wojtyla's life of heated defiance and warmly delivered service came to an end at his seventh Jupiter return.

**Walter Mercado**, March 9, 1932, Time unknown, Ponce, Puerto Rico, XX

Bedecked in lavish capes and outfits that would nearly make Liberace blush, Mercado is perhaps the most flamboyant, beloved and well-known astrologer in the Latin world. Jupiter in Leo not only shows up in his training as an accomplished dancer and actor, including as one of Puerto Rico's first teen idols, but his Sun's ruler also called him to destiny as an astrologer in 1967 at his second Jupiter return. Filling in for the astrology segment at his local TV station, Mercado brought real relish and his flamenco dance flamboyancy to his horoscope reports. He became an instant star. Although many have

commented on the gauche style of his dress and style of doing astrology, he's also been responsible for giving voice to alternative spiritual philosophies and practices in a community that's more traditionally religious. Considering Mercado's at the cusp of his seventh Jupiter return, it's exciting to think what he'll do next.

**Whoopi Goldberg**, November 13, 1955, 12:48 pm, New York, New York, AA

The ever brash and bold comedian actress Whoopi Goldberg first catapulted to fame and fortune playing a wacky psychic in the hit "Ghost" at her third Jupiter Return—seems a fitting splash for a native with a Jupiter in Leo. She won an Academy Award for the role, and was only the second Black woman to do so. She is also one of the few entertainers who has ever garnered an Emmy, Grammy, Oscar and Tony. She's a clear argument that it helps considerably to have a Jupiter that's in sect and conjoined to Regulus, the fixed star associated with fame. Since 2003, her fourth Jupiter return, Goldberg has remained on TV and been no less brazen, as her ongoing controversial statements on the talk show "The View" attest. Considering that Whoopi's at her fifth Jupiter return, we can expect some bold move from her in the next year. Perhaps with her "Rededication to the Call," she'll put on her producer hat and go for a big movie production or her own TV show.

**Neale Donald Walsch**, September 10, 1943, 4:19 am, Milwaukee, WI, AA

With his Jupiter in Leo conjoined his North Node and only slightly above the horizon at his Ascendant, Neale Donald Walsch must have known he was bound to promote and broadcast a message in some form or another. Walsch is the author of the bestselling "Conversations with God" book series. According to one biography of his life online, "Restless by nature and always seeking to expand his opportunities for self-expression, Neale in the years that followed became a radio station program director, a newspaper reporter and, ultimately, managing editor, public information officer for one of the nation's largest public school systems, and, after moving to the West Coast, creator and owner of his own public relations and marketing firm." Very Jupiter in Leo, to say the least! However, after a period of profound despair and wretched life conditions during his fourth Jupiter return in 1992, Walsch wrote an anguished letter to God...and believes he got a divine answer. The commercial success of his "Conversations" books is based on transcribing what he heard from the soft, kind, warm and loving voice that answered his questions. The softness of the voice is perhaps a powerful way to envision the call of Jupiter.

Of course, not all Jupiter returns are as dramatic, powerful or eventually pleasant as the ones I've discussed here. However, there should be no doubt that Jupiter returns are turning points, if we're prepared to make the turn. Like Walsch's soft-voiced Jupiter return, I often see Jupiter as the gentle teacher and coach who encourages us to step up with our gifts. However, because Jupiter can appear so soft-spoken (yes even a Jupiter in Leo!), we might not listen well enough or stop the busyness of our lives to listen at all. (This is especially an issue at the second Jupiter return.) However, we all know hearing is not the same as listening. At each Jupiter return, we have to be willing to listen at increasing levels of inclusivity, starting from our small, younger selves to our ever-

seasoning experience and influence we gain in society. It doesn't matter if you become a company president as you age or a venerated member of your block club. Jupiter is part of the process of welding your life experience into an influence that lasts beyond your time on Earth. As we open up to listening and honoring our gifts, we widen our ability to receive light and love, like a flower blooming. With Jupiter in Leo now, natives have an opportunity to hear softly and listen carefully for what they must do loudly, boldly and clearly to be who they are. ✨

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Samuel F. Reynolds, a former skeptic, had a life-changing visit to an astrologer and has since spent 23 years doing charts and studying astrology. Now Samuel consults, writes and teaches astrology full-time. He also serves on a few astrology organizational boards and considers himself an entrepreneur who helps others build their businesses as mind-body-spirit practitioners. He writes horoscopes for *Ebony.com*, *MySign.com* and *Pride*, a British Black women's magazine. He also runs [UnlockAstrology.com](http://UnlockAstrology.com).