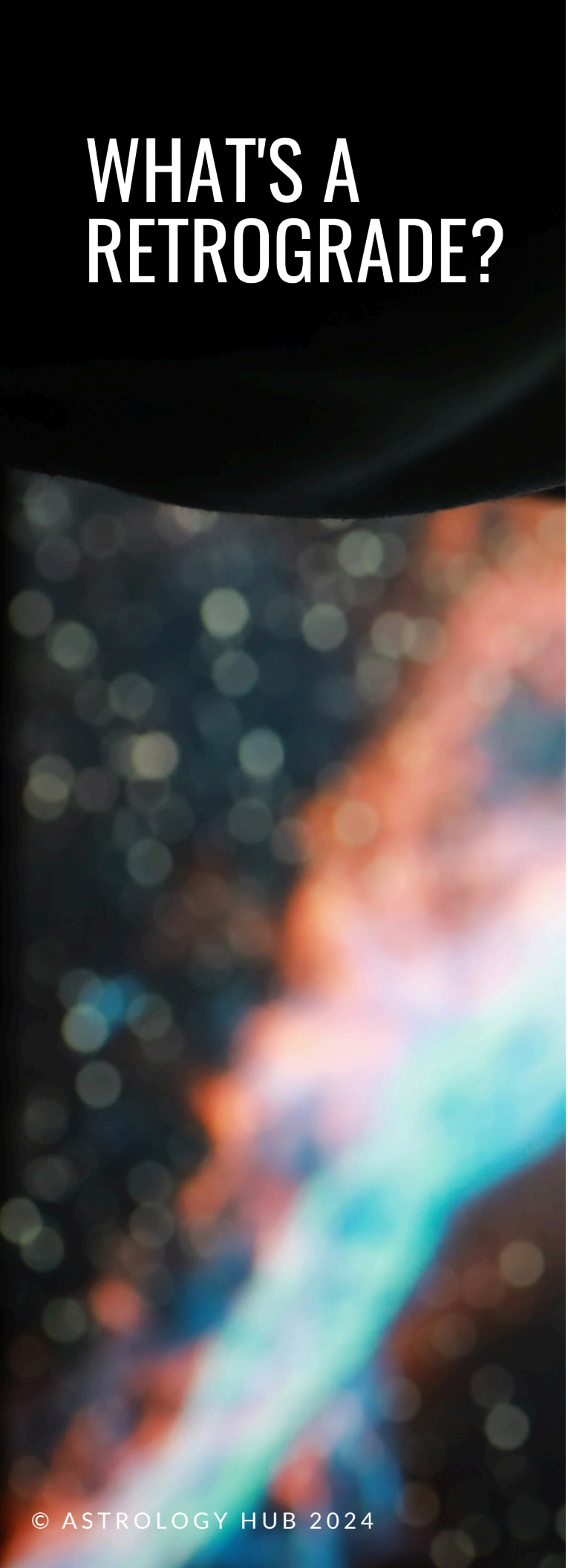
ASTROLOGY HUB *presents*

the FEARLESS RETROGRADES *guide*

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WHAT'S A RETROGRADE?



Surely you have seen this: People catch wind that Mercury retrograde is coming and they fear the sky is falling. Maybe you do too.

The sky is not falling. Look up. See? It's still there, retrograde or not.

"Retrograde" is one of those emotionally charged words in the astrological dictionary. Yet the **phenomenon is as natural as the seasons** – and as unavoidable, too.

As with anything that's anxiety-provoking, the more you know, the more you can understand and deal with it.

Don't fear retrogrades. Make friends with them.

A retrograde is an **optical illusion**. It's the same optical illusion that occurs when cars are whizzing around a racetrack in different lanes. When a car on an inside lane passes a slower one in an outer lane, the cars will appear to "retrograde" to one another.

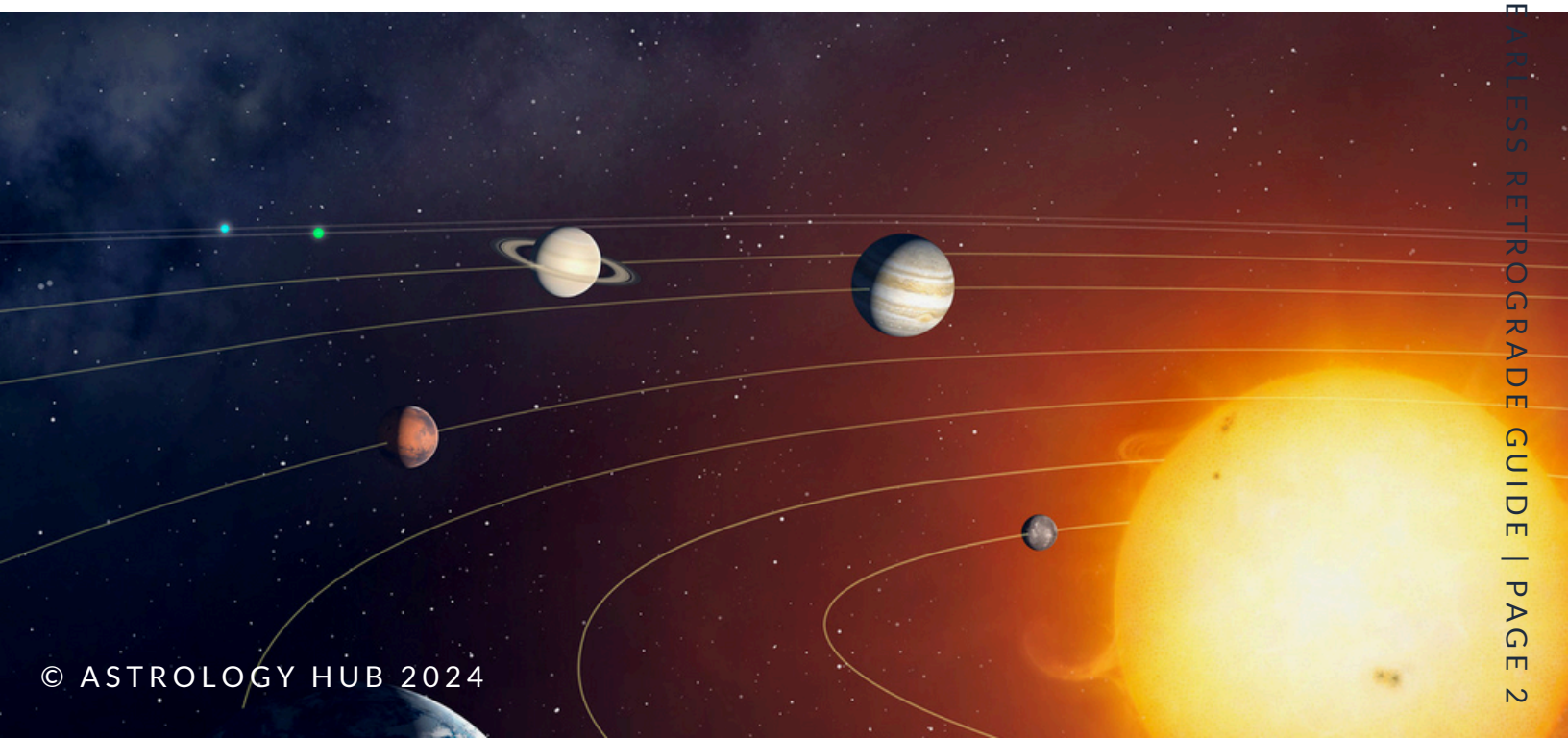
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Same with planets. When a faster-moving planet on an inside lane (aka orbit), catches up to and passes a slower-moving planet on an outside lane, observers on **both planets** would **see the other planet as *retrograde***.

Mercury is not the only planet that goes retrograde. He's just had more PR. Retrogrades occur with every planet *(and asteroid)*. The Moon never retrogrades though; *technically isn't a planet anyway, astrologers just lump it in with the term "planets" for the sake of convenience.*

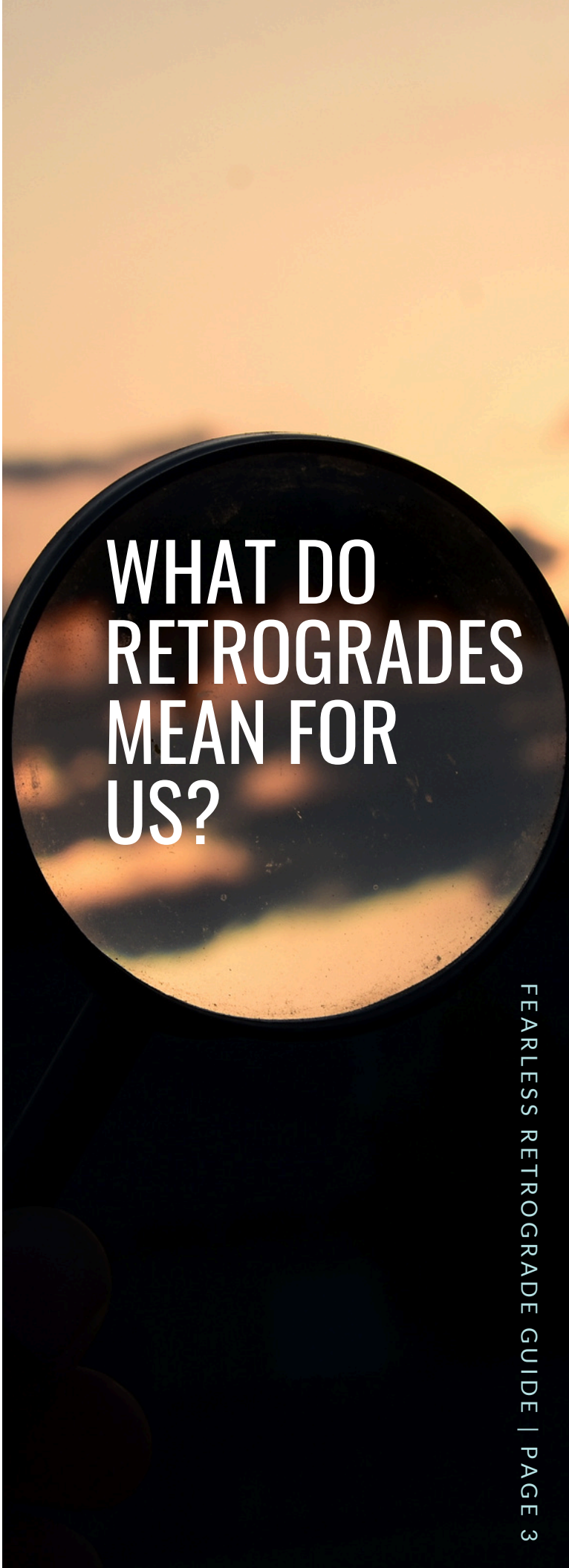
Since Mercury and Venus are on the "inside lanes" compared to the Earth, when they are retrograde, they are passing between Earth and the Sun, and are **invisible in our skies.**

And, since all of the other planets and asteroids are on "outside lanes" compared to Earth, when they are retrograde, the Earth is passing them from the inside lane. It's also the ***closest* the Earth can get to them,** making the planets appear **larger and brighter than usual**. *(Even the ones you must have a telescope to see.)*



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WHAT DO RETROGRADES MEAN FOR US?



As much as a retrograde planet appears to be backtracking, we do, too. **We retrace the metaphoric territory we've already covered.** Sometimes this is by choice; often, not.

When a planet is retrograde, matters resurface that are associated with it, with the sign it's currently in, and with the areas of life where the retrograde occurs in your chart. Frequently, this comes about by something going "wrong," which may be **an *opportunity* for you to put it right.**

That's the benefit of a retrograde. It's suited for **reexamination, reevaluation, repairing, resetting**, or **redoing**. It's also a time for internalizing the planet's influence, understanding how it works in the deepest parts of you.

Read on for a short guide to the characteristics of **each type of retrograde.**

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THE *Inner Planets*

The retrogrades of the three planets closest to Earth -- Mercury, Venus, and Mars -- are most noticeable in our day-to-day lives.

Mercury ☿

Mercury is the winged messenger, so no surprise that this is the planet that rules **communication** and **transportation**.

Mercury's retrograde affects everything and anything connected with **the flow of information**: thoughts, messages, conversations, negotiations, agreements, phones, devices, technology. All are a breeding ground for misunderstandings, confusion, deception, delays, and breakdowns.

If you make an agreement during a retrograde, you may not have a complete or accurate picture and may regret your words.

Something you learn later may require changing or terminating it. For similar reasons, it is not advisable to launch an important project or make a major purchase during a retrograde -- at least, not without making sure you have a solid returns and exchanges policy.

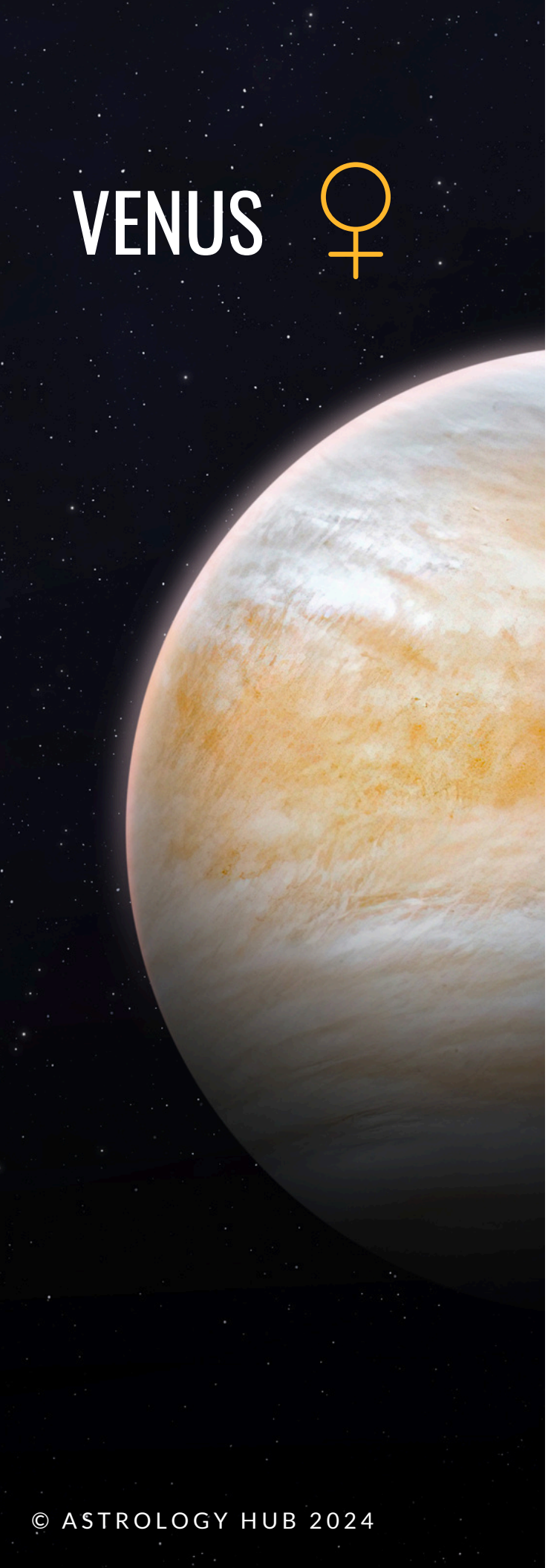
Mercury retrograde also affects **commutes**, vehicles, traffic, and how we get around, in general. **Delays**, **breakdowns**, **obstacles**, and **confusion** are common. Allow extra time when traveling, even for short distances.

On the positive side, a Mercury retrograde is a good time to go over or **complete old business**. Handle filing and paperwork. Review and investigate. Contact people you haven't talked to in a while.

*Mercury is retrograde for about **three weeks**, **three or four times a year.***



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Venus is the goddess of **love**, **desire**, and **beauty**. Venus retrograde affects **relationships** and what you want (or think you want).

A Venus retrograde will prompt you to **revisit specific relationships**, and what you actually want or **value** in life.

Appearances may be deceiving: Relationships, business deals, expensive items may turn out to not have the value they present. For this reason, Venus retrograde may **not be the time to get engaged or married, launch a project or business or make a major purchase.** (Again, check your returns and exchanges policy if you must!)

A Venus retrograde can see the return of women or loves from the past. Old relationships or business dealings can pop up for **resolution** or **reconsideration**, or maybe simply to say hi. You may experience a nudge to return to **pleasurable** or fun activities and hobbies that used to be part of your life.

Use this time to reconsider anything you value -- *is it what you truly, really want?* This includes specific relationships, the role that relationships play in your life, how you're spending your time or **money**, **business dealings**, specific **possessions**, and the things you do for "**fun**."

*Venus is retrograde for about **six weeks, every year and a half.***

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MARS ♂

Mars is the God of War and **the ruler of your drive and actions**. This is the planet that represents what motivates you, how you use your energy, and how you go after what you want.

A Mars retrograde **affects your actions, motivations, and often, tempers.** Circumstances invite or require undoing or redoing past actions. Mechanical objects – objects that move – sometimes malfunction or break down. (For that reason, you might want to avoid buying expensive ones during this time.)

Because Mars is the archetypal masculine, his retrograde can summon men from the past. Old conflicts may also arise.

Frustration is likely if you attempt to initiate matters or push them forward. Watch your temper; people are testy and flare-ups may get out of hand.

Instead, use a Mars retrograde to take your time, **reinforce past actions**, address or **resolve conflict**, and put effort into the areas of life where he is traveling in your chart.

*Mars is retrograde for about **two months every two years.***



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THE *Outer Planets*

Once we move beyond the innermost planets, the effect of a retrograde is less obvious. The further out the planet, the longer the retrograde lasts, and the more subtle the impact. You may experience outer planet retrogrades more as a time to internalize the planet's influence, rather than an attention-getting gauntlet of opportunities for do-overs.

Jupiter ♃

Jupiter, King of the Gods, is an influence of **optimism**, **faith**, **expansion**, **abundance**, beneficence, and luck.

When Jupiter is retrograde, this planet's **uplifting properties turn inward.** We have the opportunity for personal exploration, development, and growth.

Issues, people, and events that surface **invite remembering or reconsidering your beliefs or relationship to Spirit.** You may go back to or complete a past area of study.

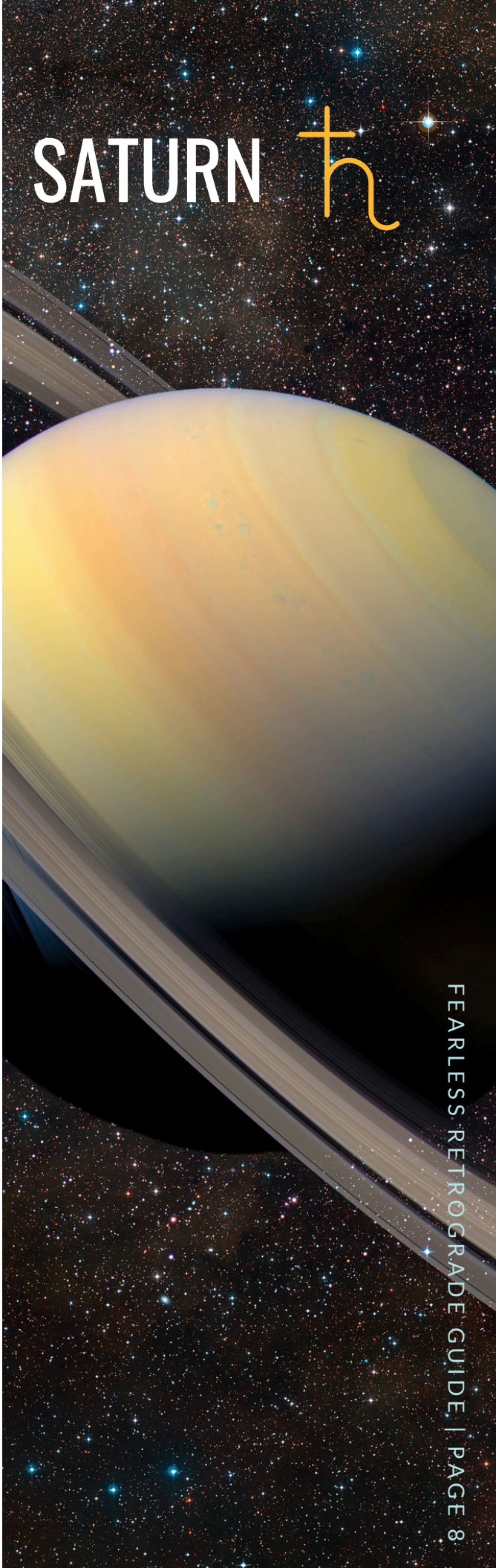
You may also process and assimilate the personal meaning of what Jupiter's current transit has been activating in your chart.

*Jupiter is retrograde for **four or five months every year.***



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SATURN ♄



Saturn, lord of order, time, and karma, is the great teacher and taskmaster of the sky. Serious business calls you when Saturn turns retrograde.

A Saturn retrograde brings up issues of **commitment**, **responsibility**, **accountability**, and **consequences** for review and reevaluation. Depending on what you see, you may reaffirm them, or you may restructure or back out of them. Grounds arise for you to **consider how responsibly you have been behaving.** It may be time to pay the piper or to suit up and step into maturity.

This retrograde may **test the soundness of existing structures** and provide the opportunity or incentive to remodel or rework them. However, breaking ground on entirely new structures may not be advisable, if you want them to have serious staying power (or structural integrity).

Saturn takes his time, so while he's retrograding, life may feel slower than slow. **Pushing and rushing won't get anywhere;** slow and steady applied attention, on the other hand, yields results.

Use a Saturn retrograde to put your life in order. You may also process and assimilate the personal meaning of what Saturn's current transit has been activating in your chart.

*Saturn is retrograde **for four or five months every year.***

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URANUS ♅

Uranus is the sky God, the father of Saturn. Uranus is **a force of awakening, liberation, unpredictable change, rebellion, and genius.**

A Uranus retrograde directs the planet's provocative energies inward. It's as if the lightning bolts that God is said to toss go straight into you and awaken your consciousness. **Your perspective may tilt; you may experience flashes of genius.**

You may also process and assimilate the personal meaning of what Uranus' current transit has been activating in your chart.

*Uranus is retrograde for **about five months every year.***



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NEPTUNE ♆

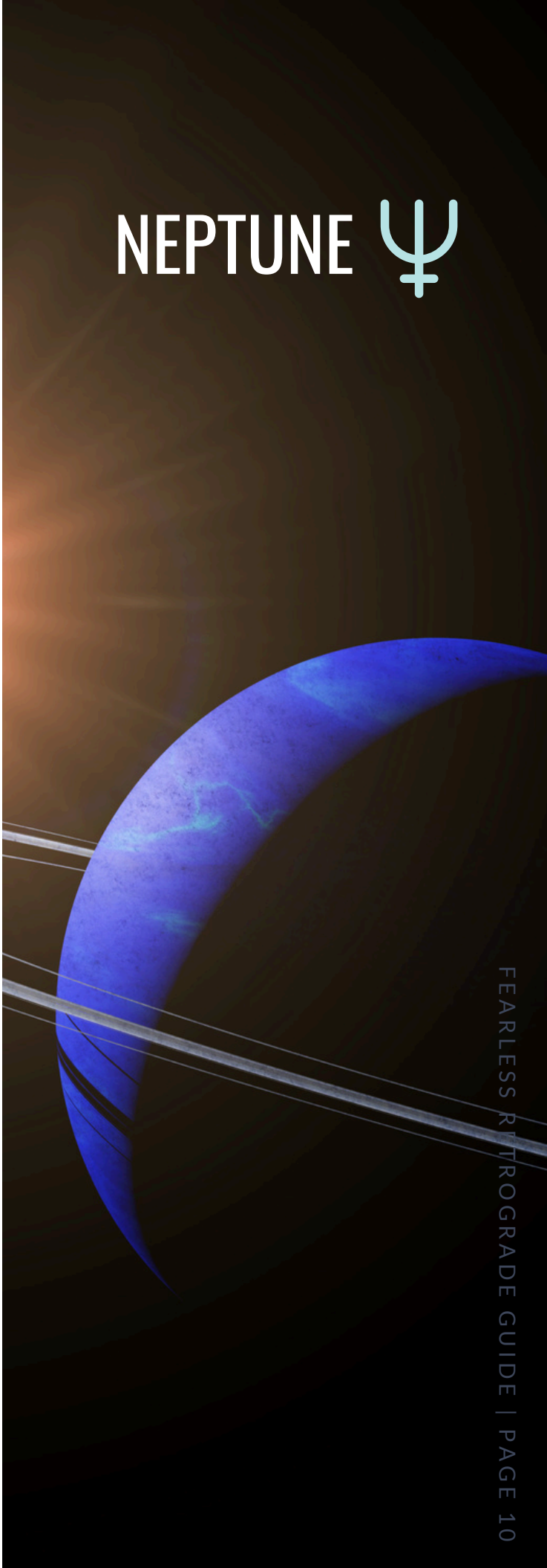
Neptune, lord of the seas, is a boundary-dissolving influence of formlessness and transcendence.

A Neptune retrograde **heightens intuition and perceptions.** It may unmask previous deception, confusion, or illusion, or otherwise reveal how you had misread a situation. It may give you greater accuracy in detecting the same in current situations.

This type of retrograde is suited to **revisit creative projects for renewed inspiration.**

You may also process and assimilate the personal meaning of what Neptune's current transit has been activating in your chart.

*Neptune is retrograde for **six months every year.***



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Pluto is the lord of the underworld. Pluto is associated with great power, **primal forces**, deep impulses, **transformation**, regeneration, obsession, and **unavoidable change**.

A Pluto retrograde invites going deep into your psyche. **It's a supportive time for confronting demons, for tackling, purging, and releasing attitudes and patterns, and for taking your power back.**

You may also process and assimilate the personal meaning of what Pluto's current transit has been activating in your chart.

*Pluto is retrograde for **six months every year.***

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