

Class # 5 – The Alchemy of Progressions#

- *“There's some ill planet reigns:
I must be patient till the heavens look
with an aspect more favorable.”*
~William Shakespeare, *Winter's Tale*,
Act 2, Scene 1, spoken by Hermione

The Alchemy of Progressions

- In Hermetic Astrology the natal chart is considered to represent the most powerful influences which impact our character, consciousness, and life experiences
- From the time of birth forward the planets continue to move through the chart by what is called progressed motion
- These progressed aspects of the planets create temporary astral weather conditions which impinge upon our unconscious mind or soul and stimulate us to think, feel, and act in specific ways
- Our thoughts, feelings, and actions, can in turn, attract specific trends of events and experiences
- By calculating progressions we can look forward and determine the timing of events in our lives
- Progressions inform us whether or not we might experience sunshine or storms with our health, windfalls or losses economically, make or break-off relationships, gain or lose employment, as well as numerous other types of activities

Character is Destiny

- “All anyone can see in a birthchart are tendencies that will become facts if he does not do something to alter them.”
- Isabel Hickey
- *“Astrology does not foreshow events which are inevitable. It maps thought-cell activities which influence the thoughts and behavior and exert extra-physical power on the environment in such a way as to make certain events probable.”*
- C. C. Zain – Progressing The Horoscope

- Progressions create temporary states of consciousness

The Law of Affinity

- We draw events and experiences into our lives which mirror our states of consciousness
- Like attracts like
- You are what you think
- The relative conditioning energy of a planet in the natal chart contributes to its ability to attract pleasurable or painful experiences by progression
- ♀ Venus adds ¼ harmony
- ♃ Jupiter adds ½ harmony
- ♂ Mars adds ¼ discord
- ♄ Saturn adds ½ discord
- The nature of the progressed aspect contributes in part to type of events attracted
- Neutral: π || † σ
- Harmonious: \sphericalangle * \triangle
- Discordant: \sphericalangle \square \square \circ
- The astrologer must offer alternative expressions for any aspect
- The astrological counselor must offer suggestions as to how to best work with each aspect (the process of Alchemy)
- *“The object of the astrologer should be, not merely to demonstrate to his client and to the world at large how accurate in every detail his predictions are, but to be of as great assistance as possible to his client and to society as a whole.”*
- C. C. Zain - CS X-2 Natal
Astrology:Progressing the Horoscope
page 207
- *“...He should never forget, therefore, that people react markedly to suggestion. In fact, a positive statement made by a determined mind builds a thought-form in the astral which works from the inner-plane to make the statement a reality. This power of suggestion, consequently, and the will of the astrologer to bring constructive events to pass, may be made of great benefit. On the other hand, it may be*

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made a force of great destructive power....”

- *“...The astrologer who predicts the death of an individual at a certain time, if the individual is aware of the prediction, may through suggestion contribute to the death. And even when the individual is unaware of the prediction, the thought-form started by the astrologer, and added to by others who believe the astrologer’s prediction will be fulfilled, may be an active agent toward causing tragedy. Frightening people is iniquitous, because their fear attracts to them disasters that otherwise never would befall...”*
- *“...I do not believe the astrologer ever is justified in lying to his client; but it is within his professional jurisdiction how much of what he discerns he will tell. And in what he does tell his client, he has the opportunity, and should use it, to impart advice and information in such a manner that the suggestive power, and the thought-power, of his words shall be constructive and of assistance. The psychological effect of delineations and predictions should always be well weighed in connection with the temperament and probable reaction of those to whom made, before they are given....”*
- C. C. Zain - CS X-2 *Natal Astrology: Progressing the Horoscope* page 207
- *“Failure or success seem to have been allotted to men by their stars. But they retain the power of wriggling, of fighting with their star or against it, and in the whole universe the only really interesting movement is this wriggle.”*

• ~E.M. Forster

The Metals of Alchemy

- The ores lead, tin, iron, copper, mercury, silver, and gold comprise the seven alchemical metals
- They correspond to the experiences of Saturn, Jupiter, Mars, Venus, Mercury, the Moon, and the Sun

Alchemical Transmutation

- To change into another nature, substance, form, or condition
- In Alchemy, transforming base metals into gold
- Transmutation is achieved by conversions or antidotes

Alchemical Conversion

- **Conversion**
- From the Latin *conversio*, meaning “a complete change”
- Change in character, form, or function
- In alchemy conversion involves reconditioning the feelings associated with the problem metal to express only harmoniously

Alchemical Antidotes

- From the Latin *antidotum*, and the Greek *antidoton*, meaning “to give as a remedy against”
- Something that prevents or counteracts injurious or unwanted effects
- In alchemy antidotes are metals (thought-cells) which energetically combine to correct or recondition discordant energies. This comes through utilizing disparate but compatible elements
- Lead – Copper
- Tin – Mercury
- Iron – Silver
- Gold-no antidote

☉ Sun Progressions

- Any progressed aspect of the Sun affects our vital life force, our sense of significance, relationships with authority figures, relationships with the male sex in general, father figures, opportunities for awards, honors and recognition
- *“Unusual care should be given to dealing with the male sex, to political influences, to the attitude of those above one in station, to things affecting the honor and self-esteem, and especially as affecting the departments of life indicated by the houses in which the Sun*

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and the other planet involved in the aspect are located..”

- *“... The Sun has no natural mental antidote, but the Religious thoughts are unusually potent when held in association with the Power thoughts. Whatever the thoughts are that are thus selected to be held in the mind at the same time as thoughts of power, of confidence and of ability to handle whatever situation arises, they must be held with a glow of enthusiasm. It is their harmony that must be depended upon to counteract the planetary discord being received.”*
- C. C. Zain – Progressing The Horoscope

☾ Moon Progressions

- Any progressed aspect of the Moon affects our moods, emotional states, our mental attitude, home, family and domestic life, our everyday affairs, relationships with the female sex in general, mother figures
- *“Under unfavorable progressed aspects involving the Moon the health, contacts with women, relations with the public, the attitude of the mind, and those things indicated by the house position of the Moon and the other planet involved in the aspect should receive special attention.”*
- *“Harmonious thinking and feeling in general, because the temporary stellar aerial having the Moon dynamic structure at one terminal is so open to reception, if associated with such feeling of desire and effort to minister to the welfare of others, tends to correct the discord of a progressed aspect involving the Moon. But the most effective thoughts and feelings for this purpose are of the Aggressive type ruled by Mars, which are the natural antidote.”*
- C. C. Zain – Progressing The Horoscope

☿ Mercury Progressions

- Any progressed aspect of Mercury affects our studies, mental interests, increases our writing and intellectual

activity accuracy in calculations and memory, and attracts opportunities for communication and self-expression

- *“Under an unfavorable progression involving Mercury only thoughts should be permitted which are pleasant and which move forward to some purpose. Clerical and other errors and slight mistakes should be guarded against, and especial care should be exercised as to the exact purport of any document which is signed. What is said to others also may be subject to misinterpretation.”*
- *“The natural antidote, and thus the best type of thoughts to associate with the Intellectual activities at such a time are Religious thoughts. This does not signify one must turn to religion; but the optimism and confidence of Jupiter that all will work out as desired should be cultivated. The reliance on a higher power than human intelligence, after human intelligence has done its best, is an attitude which adds harmony to the thought-cells influenced by Mercury in the most potent form.”*
- C. C. Zain – Progressing The Horoscope

♀ Venus Progressions

- Any progressed aspect of Venus attracts friendship and socializing, affection or romantic opportunities, gratuities, gifts, pleasure, experiences with beauty and the arts
- *“Under an unfavorable progression involving Venus slights, either real or fancied, are apt to arise. Perhaps events over which no one seems to have any control will, for the time being, cause conditions that stir up grief and emotion. The less attention the individual pays to slights during such a period the better. Whether intentional or not, and whether caused by unavoidable conditions or not, the discords of Venus thrive on emotional perturbation. The best procedure, therefore, is to invoke the aid of the Safety thoughts, ruled by Saturn,*

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and also sufficient of the Power thoughts, ruled by the Sun.”

- *“The Safety thoughts, which give a cold appraisal of circumstances, and are under the dominion of reason and quite apart from emotion, are the natural antidote for the Social thoughts of Venus. That is, they enter into the Social thought-cells in the astral body most readily in the formation of a highly beneficial compound. And the realization that the less emotion permitted the less misfortune will be experienced, is an easy way to apply these Safety thoughts. Pleasure should be felt in this conquest of emotion by cold reason.”*
- C. C. Zain – Progressing The Horoscope

♂ Mars Progressions

- Progression involving Mars express through courage, passion, strife, antagonism, and effort
- *“Haste, impulse, and too great activity should be guarded against. But as Mars is a Social planet, the relations with people are even more commonly a source of difficulty. Pains should be taken not to say or do that which causes offense or which will lead to strife, unless it has calmly been decided upon that strife is the only proper course to pursue.”*
- *“The Domestic thoughts are the natural antidote, and the best way of applying them is merely to interest oneself as thoroughly as possible in helping those who are weak and in distress. This maternal attitude and the actions springing from it, if sufficiently encouraged, will generate the thought-elements which, if pleasure is felt in them, will combine with the Aggressive thoughts in the astral body to form a more fortunate compound. The more such thoughts of helping others tend to displace the discordant thoughts of strife the more favorable the events which will be attracted by the progressed aspect.*

Under Mars inner-plane weather cultivate patience and take it easy.”

C. C. Zain – Progressing The Horoscope

♃ Jupiter Progressions

- Jupiter progressions attract abundance, opportunities, good-will, and luck
- *“Self-indulgence, extravagance, unwise optimism, too great generosity, unwillingness to consider the cost, and unwarranted business expansion are the chief things which an unfavorable progression involving Jupiter tends to attract. All these things are attracted due to lack of careful analysis of the situation, the reliance upon chance or the opinions of others, or on the good offices of others. Sometimes even too great enthusiasm to present one’s religious opinions may cause difficulty.”*
- *“But whatever the discord that a progressed aspect involving Jupiter brings, basically it is due to lack of Intelligence. The house position of Jupiter and of the other planet involved in the aspect indicate the departments of life chiefly affected; but in general, as Jupiter is a Business planet, the finances also need attention. And the kind of attention most needed is to cultivate a pleasure in carefully analyzing and appraising by the most conservative methods every transaction which is entered into, especially those indicated by the progressed aspect.”*
- C. C. Zain – Progressing The Horoscope

♄ Saturn Progressions

- Progressions involving Saturn attract lack of resources, restrictions, losses, confinements, sorrow, responsibilities
- *“The trend of the thoughts under an unfavorable progression involving Saturn is to look upon the dark side of things. The planetary vibrations received by the thought-cells at the terminals of the temporary stellar aerial are heavy, morose, self-centered and lacking in buoyancy and elasticity; imparting to these cells a feeling which causes them*

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to work from the inner plane to attract want, responsibility and loss.”

- *“Because Saturn thoughts are so insistently present, weighing down the personality, no special effort is necessary to cause them to associate with other thoughts and feelings that may be cultivated. Yet social contacts and other Venus activities are of no value unless the light-heartedness and gaiety of Venus are experienced. It may require great fortitude, when things apparently are going to pieces, and even social slights and financial losses may be in the offing, to mix with people, to dance, sing, go to the movies, make merry and take joy in art and music. But there is nothing better to drive away the Saturn blues, and nothing better to add happy thought-elements to the Safety thought compounds in a manner which most readily transforms them into a dynamic stellar compound which attracts good fortune. Under Saturn inner-plane weather keep your chin up and cultivate cheerfulness.”*
- C. C. Zain – Progressing The Horoscope

♃ Uranus Progressions

- Uranus progressions bring sudden change, eccentric behavior, fads, novelty, inventions and discoveries
- *“Uranus, as octave of Mercury, has direct access to the electromagnetic form through the nerve currents; and its discords tend to unusually high tension of the nervous system, and to depletion of the electromagnetic energy. In particular it opens the gate to outside influences, notably those of people, who often gain at such times, through hypnotic effect, mental influence, or through misplaced confidence, altogether too great control over the life.”*
- *“All attachments made during such a progression should be subject to certain reservations. Yet excellent progress in astrology and the occult sciences can be made under even heavy unfavorable*

progressed aspects involving this planet. An aspect involving Uranus favors gaining new information; and as a result of such new information the viewpoint often is changed.

- *The natural antidote for an unfavorable Uranus is the same as for an unfavorable Mercury. What has been said as to applying the Religious thoughts to counteract a discordant Mercury applies with equal force to transforming a Uranian thought-compound into one of more fortunate trend.”*
- C. C. Zain – Progressing The Horoscope

♆ Neptune Progressions

- Progressions of Neptune involve imagination, visionary ideals, intuition, illusions, fantasy thinking, and, psychic sensitivity
- *“An unfavorable progression involving Neptune requires the same cultivation of the Safety thoughts as that prescribed for its octave, Venus. But in addition, because it is so much more negative and sensitive, the Power thoughts should receive even more consideration. Courage, stamina, positiveness and determination are especially required to offset the shrinking sensitiveness and the dreaminess which the vibrations of Neptune encourage.”*
- *“Such discord tends to attract schemes which work to the detriment of the individual. Imaginary advantages seem unusually attractive, and may lead to loss. On the other hand, imaginary dangers may harass, and require adequate Power thoughts to banish. Psychic matters, new habits, or even drugs may tend to enslave the person and poison may affect the health; yet even under quite unfavorable progressed aspects involving Neptune good progress may be made in music, in fiction writing, or in dramatic work.”*
- C. C. Zain – Progressing The Horoscope

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☿ Pluto Progressions

- Progressions involving Pluto attract experiences with compulsion, conformity, obsessions, group influences
- *“On its better side Pluto has to do with Soul Mates; and on its adverse side with weakness due to separation. Unusual discrimination is required while an unfavorable progression of Pluto is operative that contact with the criminal world of both planes be avoided Kidnapping, or becoming the tool of visible or invisible racketeers, should specially be guarded against. Such things at times are present in slight degree without being recognized. Association with groups of doubtful character, and situations that might lead to coercion, should be avoided.”*
- *The Aggressive thoughts, as natural antidotes, should be applied under unfavorable progressions involving Pluto in precisely the same manner advocated for unfavorable progressions involving the Moon.”*
- C. C. Zain – Progressing The Horoscope

Success

- “Anyone can be a millionaire, but to become a billionaire you need an astrologer.”
 - ~John Pierpont Morgan

Exercise

1. Choose a discordant progressed aspect that is coming up in your chart, or that is currently in orb. This might be a progressed square or opposition, an aspect involving Mars or Saturn, or a harmonious aspect that involves a planet that is discordant in the birthchart.
2. Write down your “worst-case scenario,” or what might happen if the aspect is allowed to express either unchecked or undirected. Use your powers of negative thinking.
3. Now write down your “best-case scenario,” or what might happen if the

- planets and houses involved expressed only their best energies available.
4. Assuming that the best possible outcomes could arise during this window of opportunity, write down a realizable goal you might like to accomplish while this aspect is in orb.
5. Using antidotes or conversion, write down the mental attitudes that you might cultivate for the best possible results while this aspect is in orb.
6. Write down what action steps you can take to help bring about the most constructive outcome to this aspect.
7. Write down what resources (persons, services, skills etc.) might be available in your environment during the period that this aspect is in orb.
8. Now write an affirmation or positive thought statement that builds an expectation for your desired outcome. Use keywords associated with the planets and houses involved in the progressed aspect.
9. Repeat this process over the next few months with other progressed aspects that are entering orb. Create a person journal or workbook