Annual Profections

for Keanu Reeves

Cast for 17 September 2026

A sample reading from Mike Astrology. This is the complete report a customer receives, generated by the same engine — nothing here was written for this page.

Birth data: 2 September 1964, 05:41, Beirut, Lebanon.

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Where You Are Right Now — A Third-House Year

Profection is the oldest and plainest timing method in the tradition, and it runs on counting rather than on the sky. At birth the year belongs to your first house. At one year old it moves to the second, at two to the third, and it keeps stepping one house forward every birthday until it arrives back at the first at twelve, then twenty-four, then thirty-six. Nothing in the heavens has to happen for this to advance. Your birthday advances it.

The house it lands on is the department of life the year is about. A seventh-house year is a year about partnership whether or not you were looking for one. A sixth-house year is about work, routine, health and the daily machinery. The topic does not have to be dramatic to be the topic — some years the department on duty is quietly maintained rather than overturned.

This is what profections do that no other technique does. Transits tell you where the pressure is, progressions tell you what you have grown ready for, directions tell you what is arriving. None of them tell you which subject the year is filed under. Profection does, before anything happens, from your birthday alone. Read it as the year's heading rather than its content. The heading tells you where to look. What actually occurs under it is described by the ruler of that house, which the next section takes up, and by whatever the sky is doing to that ruler.

The house sets the subject. The planet that rules it sets how the year goes, and of the two it is the more informative. Whichever sign sits on the profected house has a traditional ruler, and that planet becomes the Lord of the Year. For twelve months it is promoted: its natal condition, its house, the aspects it was born with, and everything the sky does to it during the year all describe your year in a way they do not in ordinary times. A well-placed lord makes for a year that moves. A lord under pressure makes for a year that asks for patience in exactly the department the house named.

This is why two people can share a profected house and have opposite years. Both are having a tenth-house year about career and standing; one has a Lord of the Year sitting comfortably in its own sign, the other has the same lord cornered and afflicted. Same subject, entirely different weather. It is also why the year's ruler is worth tracking after this report is finished. When a transit crosses the Lord of the Year, it matters more than the same transit would in any other year. When the lord turns retrograde, or is met by an eclipse, the year's business pauses or turns. A single planet is carrying the twelve months, and knowing which one it is turns a general forecast into a specific one.

A third-house year brings the count to the near world, the stretch of life you can reach within an hour. The tradition gives this house to talk, messages and paperwork, to short trips and errands, to learning, and to whoever lives nearby: neighbours, the regulars on your street, and

brothers, sisters and cousins where there are any. After years that may have pointed at far horizons, this one keeps the action local.

Words weigh more this year. Emails, forms, contracts, a class you enrol in, a talk you keep postponing: the year runs on language and rewards whoever uses it on purpose. It is a student's year at any age, and a skill picked up now keeps paying for the rest of the cycle. Movement goes up too, though rarely as one big trip; think of the repeating loop of errands and visits. Old threads with the people nearest to hand may ask to be picked up again, or finally untangled.

Scatter is how a third-house year usually goes wrong. You end up with forty open tabs and no finished page. Talk about people replaces talk with them, and busyness feels like progress while producing none. A form gets signed unread because another message was already waiting. A third-house year can be chatted away entirely, one quick reply at a time, and still feel full right up to the next birthday.

What it offers is small, practical and cumulative. Your thinking gets organised and your voice gets exact. You learn the skill instead of reading about learning it. You write the thing down. You say the awkward sentence out loud, to the one it is meant for, instead of rehearsing it for months. And you find that the local round, the same streets and the same faces, is not the cramped version of your life but the soil the rest of it grows in.

The line to keep: this year, the word is the deed.

Your natal Neptune lives in this house, so it gets its year along with the lord.

Mars is the lord of your year right now.

When Mars rules your year, it wants action and supplies the push for it. Mars is the planet of drive, desire, nerve and conflict, and for a year, birthday to birthday, those run the administration. There are things to fight for, projects to force over the line, and boundaries to draw again in fresh paint.

His natal house is where the year's effort gathers, and that house demands more push than usual and pays out for boldness. His sign is your fighting style, and his birth aspects name both the weapons you carry and whoever is likeliest to get hit by accident.

A Mars year rewards the direct route. Asking plainly beats hinting, starting now beats holding out for a perfect moment, and losses cut early cost less than losses nursed. The drive needs somewhere to go: given a hard task it gets things done, and left idle it finds a soft target.

The year goes wrong through heat in the wrong place, with irritation leaking sideways at people who did nothing, battles picked by reflex, and haste charging you twice for every shortcut. It goes right once

nerve becomes a habit, the brave thing done early and repeatedly, so that ground caution gave away without a fight is won back piece by piece.

What a Mars year leaves behind is mostly what you started in it, and almost nothing you waited on.

Your Mars, lord of this year, is in Cancer, in the eleventh house: the sign of home and protection, in the house of friends, groups and the wider circle. So the year is also run from that part of your life, and draws in Venus, Jupiter and the Moon, which Mars aspects at birth.

Houses in this report are counted sign by sign from your rising sign, the way the years themselves are counted, so a planet can sit one house along from where your natal reading places it.

The Sky's Hand on Your Year-Lord

❖ *Transiting Sun sextile natal Mars*

Nerve comes cheaply for the couple of days, twice a year, that the Sun spends sextile your Mars. Courage and drive come from Mars; purpose comes from the Sun. Sextile to each other, the two cooperate. You act with confidence but without aggression, effort feels proportionate, and your manner is warm and direct. You are drawn to the projects you

have been putting off out of fear of failing at them, and those projects are where this contact points most usefully.

Difficult things get a lighter hand. A talk you have been dreading needs only one plain sentence, not a speech. Practical tasks get finished instead of rearranged. Competition is enjoyable rather than tense, and you can disagree with someone without either of you leaving the room offended. A first step that needs a little nerve, such as an application, a phone call, an offer or a question asked in public, is cheaper than usual.

Some hesitation may remain, a whisper that this is not really your moment. The sextile will not push past it on your behalf. It lowers the cost of pushing, nothing more. The usual way to waste these two days is to spend the extra nerve on whatever was already urgent, so the avoided thing stays avoided and you feel productive about it.

Hear the hesitation out and then decide for yourself. Choose the task that feels truest to you rather than the most pressing one, and begin it today, since the window closes quickly. By the end of the second day the extra push fades, and whatever you started will need ordinary willpower to continue, which is why starting matters most. Ordinary willpower can keep something moving once it is moving. It rarely gets a stalled thing going.

The line to keep: the first step you take under this sextile will prove to be the hard part, and you will later be puzzled that it took a planet to get you moving.

❖ *Transiting Mars conjunct natal Mars*

This is your Mars return, and it comes round roughly every two years — the start of a new cycle in how you spend force. Transiting Mars arriving back at the place it held when you were born restarts something. In the two or three days around it, energy that has been low picks up, and whatever you begin in this window tends to carry a surprising distance, because it is starting at the top of a cycle rather than in the middle of one.

The practical use is straightforward and worth planning for if you know it is coming. Launch the thing. Start the training. Make the first approach. Have the conversation you have been drafting in your head. Under an ordinary Mars you would need a reason to begin; here the beginning is cheap and the momentum is genuinely yours rather than borrowed from circumstance.

It also functions as an honest audit, which is the part most people skip. Look back two years to the last one. What did you put your force into across that cycle, and is there anything to show for it? Not what you intended — what you actually spent it on. Energy is the one resource

that cannot be recovered afterwards, and this is the natural point in the calendar to notice where it went.

The characteristic difficulty is that the increase is not selective. More force is available and it will go wherever there is an existing channel, which for most people means the argument that was already simmering, the grievance already half-formed, or the habit already running. If something has been irritating you for weeks, this is when it gets said, and the saying will be bigger than the subject.

So the discipline is about direction rather than restraint. Decide, before the window, what you want the next two years of effort pointed at, and start that in these few days. If you do not choose, the surplus still gets spent — it simply gets spent on whatever was nearest. Physical energy runs high and impatience with your own limits runs higher. This is a good window to begin something demanding and a poor one to judge how much of it you can sustain, because the sustainable level is the one you will have in a fortnight, not the one you have on the day.

There is a common misreading of this contact worth clearing up. A Mars return does not mean a good fortnight or a bad one; it means a reset. What follows depends almost entirely on what you point it at in the first few days, which is why knowing it is happening is worth more here than with most transits. It is also a natural moment to notice how you handle force generally. Some people spend it in bursts and then

run empty for months. Some ration it so carefully that it never amounts to anything. The two-year rhythm is long enough to see your own pattern in, and short enough that changing it is realistic rather than aspirational.

The line to keep: a two-year cycle of effort starts this week. Choose what it is for before it chooses for you.

How to Work the Year-Lord

The practical use of the year-lord is that it turns a whole sky into a watch-list. In any given month there are a dozen transits running at once and no obvious way to rank them. Profection answers that: for these twelve months, the planet ruling your profected house is the one whose movements matter most, and the rest are weather.

So follow it. Where is your year-lord in the sky right now, which sign is it crossing, what is it touching in your birth chart, and is it moving forward or backward? The dates it makes an exact contact are usually the dates the year turns — the offer, the argument, the meeting, the decision that could not have been made two months earlier.

A year-lord that goes retrograde during its year is worth knowing about in advance. It usually means the year's central matter gets raised, withdrawn, and raised again in a different form, and people who are

not expecting it read the withdrawal as a failure rather than as the middle of a sentence. The other thing to watch is when your year-lord meets the Sun, or is met by one of the slow planets. Those are the year's loudest weeks, and they can be found on a calendar months ahead of time, which is the whole point of a timing technique.

How much there is to watch depends on which planet drew the year. A Moon or Mercury year gives you a lord that laps the zodiac quickly, so the year arrives in a series of short pulses. A Saturn or Jupiter year gives you one that barely moves, so the year has two or three long movements instead of a dozen small ones, and it is worth pacing yourself accordingly.

The Twelve-Year Rhythm of Your Life

A profected year is never only itself. It is one station in a twelve-year wheel, and the wheel is worth seeing whole. The cycle restarts at twelve, twenty-four, thirty-six, forty-eight, sixty and seventy-two. Those are first-house years, and people reliably describe them afterwards as the years they began again — new direction, new body, new name for what they are doing. If you are approaching one, the years immediately before it are the closing of a chapter whether or not that is obvious yet.

The four angular houses — first, fourth, seventh and tenth — carry more weight than the rest. They fall at ages divisible in the pattern 0, 3, 6 and 9 within each cycle, and they tend to produce the visible years: the moves, the partnerships, the changes of standing, the years family shape shifts. The houses between them are quieter by design, and a quiet year in the sequence is doing preparatory work rather than failing to produce.

The practical use of this is planning. If you know a tenth-house year is two years out, you can arrange the ambitious move to land inside it rather than fighting for it during a twelfth-house year that wants rest. The wheel is entirely predictable — it is the one piece of astrology you can calculate for the rest of your life on your fingers.

Your Earlier Years — Childhood and Youth

The same wheel has been turning since the day you were born, one house a year, so your childhood and youth can be traced on it as well. They are sketched more lightly here, because a child lives the activated house through its family rather than through its own choices: a fourth-house year at three is the household's year as much as yours. Read each cycle for its rhythm rather than its detail. Most people recognise at least one turning point once the ages are lined up, and it is often at twelve or twenty-four, the years the wheel starts over.

Your first cycle — childhood (ages 0–11). Age 0, the first house (Mercury); 1, the second (Venus); 2, the third (Mars); 3, the fourth (Jupiter); 4, the fifth (Saturn); 5, the sixth (Saturn); 6, the seventh (Jupiter); 7, the eighth (Mars); 8, the ninth (Venus); 9, the tenth (Mercury); 10, the eleventh (Moon); 11, the twelfth (Sun).

Your second cycle — youth (ages 12–23). Age 12, the first house (Mercury); 13, the second (Venus); 14, the third (Mars); 15, the fourth (Jupiter); 16, the fifth (Saturn); 17, the sixth (Saturn); 18, the seventh (Jupiter); 19, the eighth (Mars); 20, the ninth (Venus); 21, the tenth (Mercury); 22, the eleventh (Moon); 23, the twelfth (Sun).

Your third cycle (ages 24–35). Age 24, the first house (Mercury); 25, the second (Venus); 26, the third (Mars); 27, the fourth (Jupiter); 28, the fifth (Saturn); 29, the sixth (Saturn); 30, the seventh (Jupiter); 31, the eighth (Mars); 32, the ninth (Venus); 33, the tenth (Mercury); 34, the eleventh (Moon); 35, the twelfth (Sun).

Your fourth cycle (ages 36–47). Age 36, the first house (Mercury); 37, the second (Venus); 38, the third (Mars); 39, the fourth (Jupiter); 40, the fifth (Saturn); 41, the sixth (Saturn); 42, the seventh (Jupiter); 43, the eighth (Mars); 44, the ninth (Venus); 45, the tenth (Mercury); 46, the eleventh (Moon); 47, the twelfth (Sun).

Your fifth cycle (ages 48–49). Age 48, the first house (Mercury); 49, the second (Venus).

Your Last Twelve Years, Walked One by One

Because profection is exact arithmetic, the twelve years you have just lived can be laid out one at a time and checked against your memory, which is the best reason to trust the technique before you lean on it for what is coming. Each year below names the house it woke, the planet that ruled it, and the house of your birth chart that planet lives in. Read them as prompts rather than verdicts. The useful exercise is to find, for each year, the one event that fits, and to notice the years where nothing seems to; those are usually the ones worth thinking about longest.

Age 50 — a third-house year (Scorpio, ruled by Mars, which sits in your eleventh house)

The near world was busy: messages, short trips, neighbours and the faces you saw most days, a course or a skill picked up. Look for a conversation that changed your mind, a piece of writing, a test passed, or a different route you started taking. Third-house years are easy to forget because nothing large happens in them, and they are often where a later move was first talked through.

Age 51 — a fourth-house year (Sagittarius, ruled by Jupiter, which sits in your ninth house)

Home, and whoever you call your own people, took up the year. Look for a move or a renovation, someone at home needing more of you, or a change in who shared your roof, including the change of having it to yourself. Even when nothing visible happened, these years tend to settle what you think of as home, and the decisions made in them about where and how to live usually outlasted the year by a long way.

Age 52 — a fifth-house year (Capricorn, ruled by Saturn, which sits in your seventh house)

Pleasure, creativity and romance stood in the foreground, along with play of every kind. Look for a romance, a hobby that turned serious, a performance or a prize, something you made purely because it pleased you, or, if there are children in your life, one of their milestones. Fifth-house years are the ones people remember fondly or barely at all, depending on whether they allowed themselves to enjoy them.

Age 53 — a sixth-house year (Aquarius, ruled by Saturn, which sits in your seventh house)

The ordinary week asked for attention: chores, duties and the upkeep of a daily routine. Look for a new routine, a change of duties, someone you worked or helped alongside who came to matter, or a habit you

changed for good. Sixth-house years rarely announce themselves; what they leave behind is a way of organising the week that you may still be using, for better or worse.

Age 54 — a seventh-house year (Pisces, ruled by Jupiter, which sits in your ninth house)

Another person sat at the centre of the year: a partner or a close friend, an ally in some shared plan, or an open rival. Look for a commitment made or ended, a promise or a contract, or a falling-out that forced you to say what you would and would not accept. Seventh-house years teach through someone else, and the lesson usually came from them.

Age 55 — an eighth-house year (Aries, ruled by Mars, which sits in your eleventh house)

Shared money, intimacy and endings were the ground of that year. Look for an inheritance or a debt, a joint account, a loss, or a relationship that went deeper than it had been. Eighth-house years often feel heavy while they last and look, from a distance, like the year something was finally let go so that something else could grow.

Age 56 — a ninth-house year (Taurus, ruled by Venus, which sits in your eleventh house)

Your horizon widened. Look for a long trip, a teacher, a course of study, a move abroad, or a change in what you believed. Ninth-house years often begin a course of learning or a way of seeing that took years to finish, and if you can find the book, the trip or the conversation that started it, you have found that year's real event.

Age 57 — a tenth-house year (Gemini, ruled by Mercury, which sits in your first house)

Reputation and standing were on show. Look for a public role, a responsibility or an honour, a new answer to what you were known for, or a moment when the people in charge took notice of you. Tenth-house years put your name on something, and what you were known for by the end of that one is often still part of how people describe you.

Age 58 — an eleventh-house year (Cancer, ruled by Moon, which sits in your eleventh house)

Your circle carried that year: friends, groups and the plans you made among them. Look for a new circle, a cause you joined, or a team that formed or broke up. Eleventh-house years show who your allies are, and some of the friendships made in one last for decades.

Age 59 — a twelfth-house year (Leo, ruled by Sun, which sits in your first house)

A quieter, inward year closed the cycle. Look for retreat and rest, a private struggle, a stretch of study or spiritual practice, or something you finished alone. Twelfth-house years rarely look productive from outside, and they often hold the reason the following first-house year could begin so cleanly.

Age 60 — a first-house year (Virgo, ruled by Mercury, which sits in your first house)

A first-house year starts a cycle, so look back at it for a beginning. Something about how you came across, introduced yourself or carried yourself changed that year, and often the change was chosen: a fresh address, a different daily round, a new account of yourself for people you had only just met. If nothing obvious began, check what you started quietly that year and only noticed later.

Age 61 — a second-house year (Libra, ruled by Venus, which sits in your eleventh house)

Money and possessions were that year's business. Look at what you had, saved or were given, and how it shifted: money arriving from a new source, a debt taken on or cleared, a thing bought, handed down or given away that said something about who you were becoming. Under the money there was usually a question of worth, and how that year answered it tends to show in how you have priced yourself since.

The Turn at Your Birthday — A Fourth-House Year

Age 63 — a fourth-house year (Sagittarius, ruled by Jupiter)

This year profects to the bottom of your chart, the fourth house: home, land, where your roots are, and the private self that exists before any audience turns up. Most of a fourth-house year's important business happens offstage, where visitors never see it.

Where you live comes forward. Moving, staying put, repairing, clearing out, buying or giving up a place all become likelier, and a year with no change of address still tends to ask whether the place you live is actually home. Ties to your origins can ask for attention as well, through a decision about property, a box of old things that needs sorting, or those you think of as your own people. The deeper work is inside. You look at which habits survive only because they were always done that way, and you decide which of them you mean to carry on and which stop with you.

Public life may go quiet, which is no failure; a tree feeding its roots shows nothing above ground. A fourth-house year goes wrong when home becomes a hiding place, when an old quarrel about your origins is fought once more on the same ground, or when the whole year is poured into walls and floors while the life inside them is left to fend for

itself.

What it can do is make you your own foundation. You settle on where you belong, which may not be where you started. You make peace with some part of your origins, or you make distance from it, and either is clean as long as you picked it on purpose. And you put the practical side of home in order, the paperwork, the leaking tap, the cupboard nobody opens, because those small fixes free up more room than they look as if they will.

The line to keep: this year, what gets settled at home holds up whatever you later build in public.

The Years Ahead, Year by Year (ages 64–73)

Age 64 — a fifth-house year (Capricorn, ruled by Saturn)

The count hands you a fifth-house year: pleasure, play, creative work, romance and, traditionally, children. The fifth holds what you do for enjoyment rather than obligation, and for a year it wants you visible. Whatever you have been making in private asks to be shown. Whatever delight you have put off until there was time sends its bill.

Treat the creative pull as an appointment rather than a mood. A fifth-house year favours the person who shows up at the page, the

stage, the workbench or the dance floor on a fixed evening, playing seriously and on a schedule. If there is romance to be had, it tends to run warmer and more theatrical than usual; enjoy the show, and notice what the drama tells you about what your heart actually requires. If children are around you, that bond often turns vivid this year, with their needs and their growing up taking more of your attention. Without them, the same house turns to whatever else you are bringing into being.

This year goes wrong through gambling, and not only with money. A flirtation is chased for the mirror it holds up rather than for the person in it. Money gets risked for the thrill instead of a plan. Attention is pursued in place of enjoyment, and you end up performing your pleasure for other people without feeling much of it yourself. Pleasure with nobody quite present in it is the counterfeit to watch for.

Taken seriously, a fifth-house year lets the heart out of the filing cabinet. You finish the thing and put your signature on it. You let someone see you love something, or someone, without irony. You let yourself be caught enjoying your own life, and that, oddly, is what draws people to you. Nobody has to be watching for any of this to count, but it does need you to stop postponing it until the list is clear.

The line to keep: this year, joy is not the reward for the work. It is the work.

Age 65 — a sixth-house year (Aquarius, ruled by Saturn)

A sixth-house year turns the light on the daily round: tasks, upkeep, routines, the chores that stop a life falling apart, and the craft of doing ordinary things well. No house repays attention more reliably or punishes neglect more exactly, and there is nothing glamorous about it. The year's material arrives looking like ordinary things, a growing list, a broken appliance, a calendar with no gaps, a system that served for years and has quietly stopped serving. Underneath them sits one question: do your daily arrangements fit the life you really have?

The amount of doing tends to rise rather than its prestige. Lists get longer, small duties multiply, and skills sharpen through repetition. People who watch how you handle things, rather than listen to what you say about them, start to rely on you. If there are animals or plants in your care, they may want more of you too. This year rewards fixing the process rather than redoing the result: the filing, the kitchen, the morning sequence, the way bills get paid.

A sixth-house year can turn into a grind. Service slides into servitude, and you shoulder what others should be carrying because saying no feels slower than doing it. Perfectionism gets turned on your own routines until nothing is ever finished enough. The year disappears into other people's task lists, and martyrdom, this house's favourite costume, starts to look like virtue.

There is a craftsman's year on offer instead, and it asks little more effort. You rebuild the routines like an engineer, small, dull and repeated, and watch everything downstream run more easily. You help where helping is chosen and keeps its dignity, and you step back from the places where it was simply extracted from you. Come the next birthday, the ordinary machinery of your days runs better than it did, and you could name exactly what changed.

The line to keep: this year, how you do anything is the whole curriculum.

Age 66 — a seventh-house year (Pisces, ruled by Jupiter)

The count swings to the western horizon: a seventh-house year. This house holds whoever stands opposite you. That can be a partner where there is one, a collaborator, the other party to an agreement or a close friend met one to one, and, by tradition, the open opponent too. For a year the main events tend to involve two people rather than one.

Agreements come forward in every sense. Proposals are made, terms get set, some arrangements are drawn up and others are ended. Close bonds already in place tend to get renegotiated as the living things they are, not left on their opening terms, and consequential new people walk in more readily than in other years. The seventh house also holds the mirror. Other people show you, with uncomfortable accuracy, the

qualities you have parked with them for safekeeping. The charm you admire in one person and the stubbornness that maddens you in another turn out, more often than is pleasant, to be yours.

The year loses its centre when you appease instead of relating, disappear into the other person's plans, or keep score in a ledger nobody agreed to. It can go the other way too, into fighting the person opposite because facing yourself feels harder. An agreement signed in a fog this year tends to run long and cost more than it looked.

Relationship of any kind behaves more like a craft than like weather, and a year here makes that plain. You say plainly what you need. You hear what is actually being asked, not what you feared would be. You sign what deserves your name and turn down what does not, politely. The right people make you more yourself rather than less, and by the closing months a single conversation is enough to show you which are which.

The line to keep: this year, whoever stands across from you is the teacher.

Age 67 — an eighth-house year (Aries, ruled by Mars)

An eighth-house year moves into the territory of joint holdings and debts: other people's money, loans, taxes, settlements, shared accounts, and the quieter trading of trust once people have let each other close.

Here sit the matters that have to be faced rather than managed, and the year's business runs through whatever belongs to two people or more.

Something tends to run out its term. It may be a financial arrangement, a part you have grown out of, or a guarded way of holding yourself that once protected you and now takes more upkeep than it is worth. An eighth-house year is a compost year: what breaks down feeds whatever grows next, as any gardener could tell you. Expect paperwork with other people's names on it, conversations about who owes what, and moments where trust is extended, tested or withdrawn. A secret, yours or another person's, can come out, and it is rarely as large in the open as it felt while hidden.

When the year closes up it becomes a bunker. Control dresses up as caution. Secrets outlive their usefulness. Power is fought over instead of shared, and an arrangement that has plainly finished is kept going because an ending feels more frightening than a slow drain. In this house, arguments about money are very often arguments about closeness in a more speakable form.

It can also be one of the strongest years in the cycle. You face the accounts, the financial ones and the emotional ones, and facing them changes them. You let the finished thing finish on time. You go down into your own basement with a torch and climb back up carrying less. People start to sense that what is real is safe with you, because you

have stopped running from your own.

The line to keep: this year, what you are willing to release decides what you receive.

Age 68 — a ninth-house year (Taurus, ruled by Venus)

The count climbs into the ninth house: long trips, higher study, belief, publishing, teachers, the law and the long view. A ninth-house year wants to take you past the edge of your habits, geographically, intellectually or in what you believe. Distance does you good now. A foreign place, a foreign way of thinking, the course of study that rearranges your thinking, the teacher or the student who arrives on cue: each of those can be the year's main event.

Belief is the deeper subject. A year here audits what you think about meaning, fairness and how a person should live, and it does so by putting you in front of views and experiences your categories cannot file. Whatever survives the audit becomes conviction that can stand weather. Whatever does not, you outgrow on time. The ninth also covers putting what you know in public: writing the longer piece, making the case where others can argue with it, shaping what you have learned into something another person could use. If legal matters come up, they reward the long view over the quick win.

Pushed too far, the year starts preaching. Certainty hardens precisely where curiosity was wanted. A single teacher or system is swallowed whole. The trip is put off for one more year of reading about it. Opinions go out at a volume wisdom never needs, and those near you hear more about your new outlook than they asked to.

What the year can do is turn experience into meaning. You go. You study what pulls at you rather than what looks respectable. You accept the trip, the course or the conversation that sits outside your plans. And you return, from a country, a book or a change of mind, larger than you left and with something to teach that is not borrowed.

The line to keep: this year, wherever your map and the territory disagree, the territory wins.

Age 69 — a tenth-house year (Gemini, ruled by Mercury)

This year the wheel reaches the top of your chart: a tenth-house year. The tenth covers public life, standing and reputation, the name you have beyond your own circle, and the authority you answer to or carry. Eyes turn your way whether you went looking for them or not. What was built in the quiet years comes into view now, and so does whatever got dodged.

Moments of public weight cluster here: something launched, a public role taken on, a piece of recognition, a step up in standing. Underneath

them sits a precise question about what your name rests on. Ambition gets honest in a tenth-house year. Some people find the ladder they have been climbing leans against the right wall, and the year pays out. Others reach a height and see clearly that it is the wrong summit, which is equally useful to know and arrives with equal force. Authority is the year's other thread: dealing with it, answering to it, and increasingly carrying a share of it.

The year turns hollow when it becomes a performance. The image gets polished while the substance underneath thins out. A title is defended in place of the thing it was given for, and the rest of what matters is mortgaged against one round of applause. Or the year turns inside out, and you sabotage your own visibility because being seen means being judged.

Its best use is as harvest and promise together. You take on the larger role and pay its honest costs with your eyes open. You let what you do be judged in daylight. And you use whatever height you gain to lift something besides yourself; that is what keeps a reputation standing.

The line to keep: this year, those who have only heard of you decide what your name means, and their verdict is nearer the truth than you would like.

Age 70 — an eleventh-house year (Cancer, ruled by Moon)

This year profects into the eleventh house: friends, allies, groups, networks, the people who wish you well, and the future you are steering towards. The eleventh carries a plain truth that the tenth can hide, which is that very little worth having gets finished alone. A year here runs on association. A friend opens a door. A circle of yours catches you when you slip. A collective effort multiplies what you could never have managed by yourself.

Circles tend to change. New alliances form at surprising speed, and old affiliations reach the end of their term without anybody falling out. The eleventh also holds hopes, meaning less your private wishes than the future you would build for more people than yourself. A project, a cause or a shared plan may ask for your shoulder, and the payment comes in this house's own currency: belonging with a purpose attached. Take stock of your circles while the light is on them. Some rooms enlarge you and some drain you; in some you bring the group your presence and in others only your performance. Friendship of the plain, long-running kind asks for deliberate upkeep this year, and it repays that upkeep for a long time after.

An eleventh-house year can be spent networking without ever connecting. Contacts are collected like coupons and never used. A crowd serves as cover against anyone getting close. A cause is adopted for the badge, and popularity gets mistaken for alliance. You end the year knowing more people and trusting fewer of them.

Over its twelve months the year can show you plainly who your people are, or make you admit which of them you found long ago and start treating them accordingly. You hand the circle real weight and find out that it holds. One introduction made now can still be paying off several birthdays later. The future stops being a private daydream and turns into a shared project with dates on it.

The line to keep: this year, your people are your fortune.

Age 71 — a twelfth-house year (Leo, ruled by Sun)

The wheel completes its circuit in the twelfth house this year: solitude, endings, what is hidden, and the quiet back corridors of life where things get done unseen. This is the closing year of a twelve-year cycle, and it behaves like one. Things finish. Roles, habits, affiliations and arrangements that have run their course come loose, often with no drama at all, the way fruit drops when it is ready.

The year asks for withdrawal, chosen rather than imposed. Less happens on the surface because more is going on below it: twelve years of material are being sorted and filed, and the sorting wants quiet. Time alone becomes productive instead of lonely, and an empty afternoon that nobody has claimed earns its keep. Things you put away long ago may come back to mind, and they come back to be filed properly rather than to trouble you. Effort spent out of sight, research,

preparation, the project nobody knows about yet, a kindness done without credit, tends to carry the year's real value, even though very little of it shows.

The twelfth can pull you under before you have learned to dive. Escape passes itself off as a break. Solitude curdles into exile, and you stop answering messages because answering now feels like too much. Self-sabotage arrives with uncanny timing, just as something was about to go right. The year can disappear into fog if fog is treated as the weather instead of as the ground you are crossing.

Few years in the cycle are as inward, or as useful. You end what is over on purpose, with some ceremony rather than a slammed door. You treat quiet as a discipline instead of a hiding place. You take inventory of your own depths with a lamp in hand. And you prepare, because the count's next stop is the first house, and the person who begins that new cycle is being put together, quietly, right now.

The line to keep: this year, the door closes so your hands are free for the next one.

At 72 the wheel is back at your first house, and a new twelve-year cycle begins.

Age 72 — a first-house year (Virgo, ruled by Mercury)

Every twelve years the count returns you to your own front door, and this year is that homecoming. The first house is not one department of your affairs among the others. It is you: what you are called, your manner on arrival, and the snap judgement strangers reach before any real conversation has started. For these twelve months everything sits under that heading, and beneath the lot runs a plain question. Who are you now, and who have you stopped being?

Mostly the year shows up as small beginnings, a dozen of them instead of one grand launch. You start things on your own initiative rather than waiting for an invitation. A description people have used for you for years begins to fit badly, and you might hear yourself correcting it aloud. Old acquaintances may say you seem different, while newcomers meet a version the old crowd has yet to notice. What you start here tends to set the tone of the eleven profected years that follow, since each of them builds on whatever this one put in motion.

Two things spoil a year like this, and each is the reverse of the other. One is making every subject about yourself: each conversation steered back to your plans, each decision weighed on your scale alone, until the people nearby start to feel like extras in a film about you. The other is ducking the year altogether, keeping busy with other people's agendas so that nobody, you included, ever asks what you want. The second is commoner, and it passes easily for modesty.

What helps is answering the year's question in choices rather than in resolutions. Drop the label you have outgrown without holding a ceremony for it. Begin something nobody else in your circle would think of beginning. Spend time where you are met as you are, not as people remember you. One technical point is worth knowing too. The planet in charge of this year is the ruler of your rising sign, which makes it the ruler of the whole chart, so for once the planet steering the year and the planet that steers you are the same one, and its condition weighs more heavily than in other years.

The line to keep: this year, you are the subject, not the audience.

Age 73 — a second-house year (Libra, ruled by Venus)

In a second-house year attention turns to what you own: money, belongings, the means you live on, and the quieter matter underneath them, which is what you believe you are worth. For twelve months the material side of life stops running in the background. Prices, purchases, savings, debts and what things are truly worth to you come up on a timetable of their own, and come back until each one is settled.

Expect decisions with figures in them. Something gets bought or sold, a cost you have put up with for ages finally gets looked at, a sum is borrowed or paid off, or you sit down and work out what your life costs to run. None of these needs to be large. The second house is

where self-worth and net worth get knotted together, and a year here tends to put both on trial: how much you will pay, what you would trade away to feel secure, what you keep only because parting with it would feel like admitting something.

When the year sours it tightens around fear. Hoarding and splurging look like opposites and are one anxiety wearing two coats. Self-regard gets pegged to a number, or you hang on to possessions and arrangements that stopped being useful some time ago. A grasping second-house year ends poorer in every currency, and the bank balance is often the least of it.

Most of what helps is plain arithmetic. You learn your actual numbers rather than your guess at them. You build a reserve, even a modest one, so that one bad month stops being an emergency. You cut the spending that was really about how things looked, and you stop selling yourself short in the deals you do make. The planet ruling the year shows which corner of your affairs the money questions come through.

The line to keep: this year, the figure that changes first is the price you set on yourself, and the account follows it.

After 73 the cycle has ten more years to run: 74, the third house (Mars); 75, the fourth (Jupiter); 76, the fifth (Saturn); 77, the sixth (Saturn); 78, the seventh (Jupiter); 79, the eighth (Mars); 80, the ninth

(Venus); 81, the tenth (Mercury); 82, the eleventh (Moon); 83, the twelfth (Sun). These houses come round again and read as above.

❖ *The Cycle After Next (ages 84–95)*

The wheel turns again, each year read as above: Age 84, the first house (Mercury); 85, the second house (Venus); 86, the third house (Mars); 87, the fourth house (Jupiter); 88, the fifth house (Saturn); 89, the sixth house (Saturn); 90, the seventh house (Jupiter); 91, the eighth house (Mars); 92, the ninth house (Venus); 93, the tenth house (Mercury); 94, the eleventh house (Moon); 95, the twelfth house (Sun).

Beyond the Ascendant — Your Moon, Sun and Lot of Fortune This Year

Everything above is counted from your Ascendant, and that count comes first: it names the year's subject for your life as a whole. The old astrologers did not stop there, though. Any important point in the chart can be walked forward the same way, one sign for each year since your birth, and each walk gives the year a second subject in its own corner of your life.

Three of these walks earn their keep. Counted from the Moon, the year has a subject for your feelings, your body and the ordinary run of your days. Counted from the Sun, it has one for your vitality and the road

you are on. Counted from the Lot of Fortune, the point that stands for the circumstances you are handed rather than the ones you choose, it has one for your livelihood and your luck. Each walk lands on a sign, every sign has a ruling planet, and that planet becomes a second lord for that part of your life until your next birthday.

None of them outranks the Ascendant. They add layers to a year; they do not replace its theme, and most of the time they read as colour in the background. The moment to pay attention is when they agree, when two walks hand the year to the same planet. Then the same thing is being said twice, the year gathers around it, and that planet's transits are worth watching more closely than the rest. Your three walks for this year are below, with the planet that holds each one.

Counted from your Moon in Cancer, this year reaches Virgo, your first house: the house of the self and how you meet the world. That is where your feelings and your body do their living this year, and Mercury holds them. From your next birthday it moves on to Libra, your second house, under Venus. Your Lot of Fortune is in Cancer too, so its walk runs alongside: your livelihood is read from the same house, under the same lord.

Counted from your Sun in Virgo, the walk reaches Scorpio, your third house: the house of thought, speech, siblings and the near neighbourhood. Your energy and your sense of direction are spent

there this year, under Mars. From your next birthday it moves on to Sagittarius, your fourth house, under Jupiter.

Where the walks agree. Mars holds this year from the Ascendant and the Sun. They share a sign, so their walks agree every year; even so, one planet handed two layers of the year means its transits count twice over, so Mars is the planet to follow most closely until your next birthday.

Where the walks agree. Mercury holds this year from the Moon and the Lot of Fortune. They share a sign, so their walks agree every year; even so, one planet handed two layers of the year means its transits count twice over, so Mercury is the planet to follow most closely until your next birthday.

The Seven Year-Lords — What Each Planet's Year Brings

Every planet takes a turn as lord of your year inside one twelve-year cycle. This is what each of them brings when its turn comes, in the order you will meet them.

Mars rules the year you are in now, and its year is read at the start of this report. Its next year begins at age 67.

Your next Jupiter year begins at age 63.

When Jupiter rules your year, things open. Jupiter stands for growth, reach, faith and good fortune, and in his twelve months doors give with less pushing, generosity goes round and comes back, and the horizon gets nearer when you walk toward it. Saying yes is cheaper for a while.

The house he holds at birth is due its expansion, his sign sets the year's style of plenty, and his natal aspects show which channels run freely and which need clearing first. The year rewards the bigger yes, to a wider part to play, a long trip, a course of study, an audience. Teachers and benefactors turn up, and so do chances to be one for somebody else.

Because everything grows, mistakes grow too. The year overreaches when promises go past what you can carry, optimism is asked to do arithmetic, more is taken for better, and luck is spent as if the supply had no bottom. The expansion holds when it rests on walls that bear weight: each yes chosen rather than collected, and faith paying for the planning instead of replacing it.

A Jupiter year makes most things bigger, including the commitments you never quite meant to make, and the bill for those is sent later, never in the year itself.

Your next Saturn year begins at age 64.

When Saturn rules your year, expect to be examined. Saturn's business is structure, duty, time and consequence, and for twelve months he checks what in your life is carrying weight and sends a bill for whatever is not. Commitments ask to be put on a proper footing or ended. People with authority, deadlines and the plain arithmetic of time all play larger parts than usual.

The examination hall is his natal house. Its affairs come due, and his contacts at birth show which parts of you hold under pressure and which need repair. Responsibilities there get heavier and, often in the same stroke, more meaningful.

The year pays only for the long game: discipline, structure, the unglamorous thing done properly and then done again. What you build carefully under Saturn tends to outlast the decade, and what you improvise comes back marked with corrections. Limits appear, of time, of money, of how much one person can hold, and once you stop arguing with them they behave like walls to build against rather than insults.

The year goes hard when fear writes the timetable, duty is done without love, pessimism calls itself realism, and being alone is mistaken for being strong. It turns good once you become the reliable one: slower to speak, clear about which loads you will accept, and built to take weight.

Saturn does not refuse payment for good work. He pays late, and only once the work is real.

Your next Venus year begins at age 68.

When Venus rules your year, love and value move closer together than they usually sit. Venus deals in liking and being liked, in beauty, money, fairness and getting along. In her year the people you like drift to the middle of things, pleasure puts its case and is heard, and keeping the peace becomes both the aim and the method.

The house she occupies in your birth chart is where the sweetness gathers; her sign gives the year its way of loving, and her natal contacts show what feeds your affections and what draws on them. A Venus year favours anything done between two people: settling a quarrel, agreeing terms, making something together. It favours the literal arts as well, the making, buying and arranging of beautiful things, and the attention you pay to your own rooms.

Money follows taste, coming and going: what you find lovely can bring it in, and the same taste is quick to spend it. The year goes soft when peace is bought at the price of the truth, indulgence passes itself off as pleasure, and your own worth is handed over to whoever happens to want you.

Venus years are kinder than most, and the kindness is not free: whatever you smoothed over in this one is still there in the next, waiting to be dealt with.

Your next Mercury year begins at age 69.

When Mercury rules your year, words carry it. Messages, paperwork, study, short trips, buying and selling, introductions: Mercury is the planet of traffic, and this year traffic is the substance of things rather than the road to them. A conversation has consequences. A document turns out to matter.

Expect more coming and going than in an ordinary year, more letters and bargains and people wanting a quick answer, and an unusually good return on precision. The traffic piles up in the house he occupies at birth; his sign colours how you think all year, and the aspects he made when you were born decide which lines of thought run clear and which keep dropping out.

The levers are light ones, light enough to pull daily: the skill you pick up, the email you finally send, the name you pass along just when it was wanted. Run too fast, the same gift turns on you. A busy mind scatters, promises outrun delivery, and cleverness stands in where a plain true sentence would have served better. Worry feeds on information the way a fire feeds on paper: the more you give it, the

higher it climbs and the less it warms.

In a Mercury year the record wins the argument: what was written down, and when, decides more than what anyone remembers saying.

Your next Moon year begins at age 70.

When the Moon rules your year, feeling outranks planning. The Moon is the planet of need, mood, home and the small daily business of looking after things, and in her year none of it stays backstage. Events come in on a tide, a crowded stretch followed by a slack one, and the months go better ridden than steered.

Her natal house marks the shoreline, the area you will feel most in and need most from until your next birthday. Her sign sets the emotional weather, and the aspects she makes at birth decide which feelings move easily and which keep snagging.

The year rewards tending. Home gets steadier, the things you need get said aloud, and the inner life is consulted before the diary fills up. Care given and received outweighs any single achievement, and plans hold when they keep to your own rhythm, started while the pull is there and paused when it ebbs.

It goes astray when mood is allowed to do the steering: needs left unsaid and then resented, the past consulted on every present question

as if it held the casting vote.

A Moon year is judged less by what got done in it than by whether, at the end, your own life feels more like home than when the year began.

Your next Sun year begins at age 71.

When the Sun rules your year, being seen is the subject. The Sun is the planet of the self that stands in the open, and from your birthday it holds the keys for twelve months, so the questions of identity, and of what you will sign, stop being private. Recognition arrives, or its absence gets too obvious to ignore. People holding some kind of authority turn up in the story, and you are asked more often than usual to be one.

Your natal Sun's house is where the light falls this year, and its affairs come forward ready or not. The Sun's sign sets the year's manner, and the planets it meets at birth are the allies and frictions you run into along the way.

A Sun year goes well for people who step forward a little sooner than feels comfortable: who sign the thing, run the thing, and say the plain sentence with their own name under it. It goes badly in two directions. Hide, and the year turns oddly flat, as though something had been waiting for you that you kept declining to collect. Overreach, and pride starts doing the talking, the wish to be noticed running well ahead of

anything worth noticing.

The year pays out on whatever carried your name and is curiously stingy about everything you did anonymously.

The Year Within the Year — Monthly Profections

There is a smaller wheel turning inside the year, and it explains something readers often notice without having a name for: a profected year does not feel uniform. It has an internal rhythm, and months inside the same year can be markedly different from each other. The months profect too. The year's house holds the headline for all twelve months, and then each month in turn sub-activates the next house along, starting from the year's own. A seventh-house year opens with a seventh-house month, then runs an eighth-house month, then a ninth, and so on around the wheel until your next birthday. Each of those months has its own sub-lord, and the whole twelve-house circuit completes once inside every single year.

This is not worth tracking obsessively and it never overrides the year. Think of it as the texture rather than the subject. But it is genuinely useful for one thing: when a year is difficult, the month that carries the worst of it is usually the one whose sub-house is the hardest place in your chart, and knowing that in advance turns an ambush into an appointment.

It also explains the quiet months. Not every stretch of a big year is big. Finding yours takes no calculation. Start from the house your year is in and count one house forward for each month since your birthday: the first month of the year runs on the year's own house, the second on the next one along, and so on. If your birthday is in March and your year is a fourth-house year, then March runs on the fourth, April on the fifth, May on the sixth, and the wheel closes just as the next birthday arrives.

The Months of Your Third-House Year, One by One

Your own year, month by month, from the birthday that opened it:

Month 1 — a third-house month (from 2 September 2026, Scorpio, sub-lord Mars)

Talk, errands and paperwork fill the calendar. Messages multiply, a neighbour or someone you see most days needs something, a short trip appears out of nowhere. Useful for learning one small, specific skill, and for the talk you keep rehearsing in your head. Scatter comes easily, in thirty quick replies and no finished thought. Pick the two exchanges that matter and give them your full sentences.

Month 2 — a fourth-house month (from 2 October 2026, Sagittarius, sub-lord Jupiter)

Home pulls you back. Repairs, household arrangements, someone close needing a hand, or a memory that keeps coming back can take more of the month than you planned for. Give it the time rather than resenting it. Something at the foundation is asking to be put right before the months ahead are built on top of it, and rest taken at home counts as work here, not as a lapse.

Month 3 — a fifth-house month (from 2 November 2026, Capricorn, sub-lord Saturn)

Lighter weather. Pleasure, romance, games and anything made for no reason except enjoyment come forward. Say yes to the invitation, finish the thing you make only for yourself, play without an audience. Putting fun off until it has been earned mostly means it never happens. A month like this rarely comes back on request, so spend some of it before the next one asks you to be serious again.

Month 4 — a sixth-house month (from 2 December 2026, Aquarius, sub-lord Saturn)

Duties and routines keep the accounts. Habits slip or tighten, someone who relies on you leans a little harder, and the small upkeep of a life, the forms, the repairs, the cupboard nobody opens, asks to be dealt with. Fix one habit rather than promising to fix all of them. The order of your mornings decides more of your mood than usual, and dull

maintenance done now spares you a harder month later in the year.

Month 5 — a seventh-house month (from 2 January 2027, Pisces, sub-lord Jupiter)

Other people set the pace. One other person, a friend, perhaps a partner, an opponent or someone across a negotiating table, takes the centre, and what you want has to be agreed rather than simply done. Listen for what the other side actually needs. Contracts and commitments made now tend to hold. So do resentments, so say the difficult thing plainly, and early, before it grows.

Month 6 — an eighth-house month (from 2 February 2027, Aries, sub-lord Mars)

A deeper, quieter stretch. Shared money, debts, taxes and intimacy come up, and so does whatever you have been avoiding feeling. Settle what is owed in either direction, and let go of one thing that has been kept too long. Watch the urge to manage everyone else: in this month it is usually fear wearing the clothes of competence, and it costs more than it protects.

Month 7 — a ninth-house month (from 2 March 2027, Taurus, sub-lord Venus)

The horizon opens. Travel, study, a teacher, a foreign place or simply a large question asks for your time. Read the book, book the trip, sign up for the course. Beliefs get tested from both directions, so expect to change your mind about something you were sure of. The only wasted version is staying so busy close to home that the invitation never gets an answer.

Month 8 — a tenth-house month (from 2 April 2027, Gemini, sub-lord Mercury)

Your public life steps forward. Someone in charge, a deadline, a responsibility or a question of reputation puts you on view. Do the visible part of your role well, whichever role it is, and let it be seen; modesty in these weeks reads as absence. Choices about direction made in these weeks carry weight into every month still to come, so make them on purpose rather than letting them be made by default.

Month 9 — an eleventh-house month (from 2 May 2027, Cancer, sub-lord Moon)

Friends, groups and hopes fill the weeks. An old ally resurfaces, a network proves useful, or a plan for the future suddenly looks possible. Ask for help; people are unusually willing. Notice which circles still fit who you are, because some you joined for a former self. What you hope for gets clearer in company and goes vague when you keep it to

yourself.

Month 10 — a twelfth-house month (from 2 June 2027, Leo, sub-lord Sun)

The month folds inward. The pace slows, quiet matters more, and whatever you have carried unexamined surfaces in dreams or in small, unexplained sadness. Clear the calendar where you can and do less on purpose. Retreat, care for others and solitude belong here. It is a month for finishing and releasing rather than starting, and it clears the ground for the next turn of the wheel.

Month 11 — a first-house month (from 2 July 2027, Virgo, sub-lord Mercury)

This month the light falls on you. The way you come into a room is noticed more than usual, by you first of all, and so is the manner you carry. It suits a beginning: a new routine, a fresh start on some private project, the introduction you have been putting off. What it will not tolerate is waiting for permission. If something needs starting this year, this is its month, and whatever begins now colours the eleven months behind it.

Month 12 — a second-house month (from 2 August 2027, Libra, sub-lord Venus)

Money and the things you own ask for attention. Bills bunch together, a purchase you have circled for months turns urgent, or the month's income starts sounding like a remark about your worth. Go through the accounts once, properly, instead of worrying at them daily. What you actually value gets clearer when you see where the money went, and the answer is not always flattering. That is the reason to look.

From your next birthday, on 2 September 2027, the months start one house further on, in your fourth house. Each month of that year takes the house of the month after it in the walk above, so its first month reads as this year's second, and its last as this year's first.

Where This Technique Comes From

This technique is roughly two thousand years old, and its age is part of why it is worth trusting. Profection is one of the oldest timing methods in Western astrology, in continuous use since the Hellenistic astrologers of the first few centuries, long before transits and progressions existed in anything like the form we use now. It is older than the telescope, older than the printing press, and older than most of the countries its readers live in.

The ruler of the activated house had a title: the Lord of the Year. For its twelve months the ancients treated it as the single most important planet in the chart, and they read four things about it. Its condition at

birth, the house it was born in, the aspects it received, and above all how it was faring by transit during the year it ruled. A year-lord strong at birth promised a favourable year in its department; a weak or afflicted one promised the year would ask more than it gave.

What has kept the method alive is that it needs nothing. No ephemeris, no calculation, no software. Count your age, count that many houses from the first, and you have the year's subject and its ruler. An astrologer in the second century could do it in their head at a dinner table, and so can you. It survived the centuries in another way too. When the Hellenistic material passed into Persian and then Arabic hands, and later back into Latin Europe, the year-lord went with it more or less unchanged — which is unusual. Most techniques were altered by every tradition that borrowed them. This one arrived at the other end still counting houses one year at a time.

Profections Among the Time-Lords

Profections were never meant to be read alone, and knowing what they sit beside makes them more useful rather than less. They belong to a family of time-lord techniques, all of which hand rulership of a stretch of life to one planet, and all of which run at different speeds. The ancients did not trust any single one of them. They layered several and paid attention to where the answers agreed.

Profection is the fast hand of that family — one house a year, twelve years to the circuit, the annual scale. Beside it run the slower systems. Zodiacal releasing divides a life into major and minor chapters of uneven length, marking the great turns of vocation and circumstance. The distributor systems hand out stretches of years by the bounds. And in the Persian tradition that grew from the same root, the Firdaria divides the life into planetary decades and their sub-periods.

Each answers a different question. Profection tells you what this year is about. The longer systems tell you which era you are in and what it is for. A year reads very differently depending on which chapter of a life it falls inside, which is exactly why the tradition never used one clock on its own. The solar return sits alongside these rather than inside them. It is a chart rather than a period — the sky at the moment the Sun comes back to its birth position — and it was read as the year's photograph while the profection supplied the year's title. The two were meant to be read together, and the year-lord is the thread that ties them: whatever it is doing in the return chart tells you a great deal about the twelve months it governs.

Reading a Year Against Your Other Timing

The most useful thing you can do with a profected year is check it against your other readings, because the evidence that a timing reading

is true is almost never one technique speaking loudly. It is several independent ones saying the same thing at the same time. They are genuinely independent, which is what makes the agreement mean something. Profection runs on counting and nothing else. Your progressions run on the days after your birth. Solar arc runs on a single measured arc. Transits run on the actual sky. Four different mechanisms, no shared arithmetic — so when they converge on one year, that is not four ways of saying one thing. That is four witnesses.

So when you read a year, lay them side by side. Does the profected house name the same department of life that your progressed Moon has just moved into? Is the year-lord also being hit by a slow transit? Does a directed contact land in the same twelve months? Where they agree, take it seriously and plan around it. Where only one of them is speaking, treat it as a possibility rather than a forecast. Disagreement is information too: it usually means the year is mixed, which most years are.

A worked example of disagreement, because it is the more common case. Suppose the profection hands you a tenth-house year, all career and public standing, while your progressed Moon has just gone into the fourth and wants nothing but home. That is not a contradiction to be resolved. It is an accurate description of a year in which the work goes well and costs you something domestic, and knowing that in January is worth more than being told the year is good.

The Shape of the Two Years

This year: a third-house year, ruled by Mars. From your next birthday: a fourth-house year, ruled by Jupiter.

The two years run from the street to the doorstep. This third-house year has been busy with messages, learning, errands and the near world. At your birthday the fourth house begins, and attention drops inward to home, family and the floor you stand on. Let the talking settle before the year ends. Next year works best if you arrive with fewer loose threads, because it will ask for time at home, with family matters, perhaps with a move or a repair that cannot be done at a distance.

The line to keep: this year you gathered information, and the next asks you to bring it home and build on it.

Living the Year Ahead

Some practical notes, since a profected year is easy to read and easy to over-apply.

The year runs birthday to birthday, not January to January. If your birthday is in September, your profected year begins in September and everything below is dated from there. People routinely misread a slow

autumn as a bad year when it is in fact the last weeks of the previous one. Do not expect the topic to announce itself on day one. A profected house tends to declare itself somewhere in the first third of the year, often through something small that turns out to have been the opening of the subject. Looking back afterwards, the beginning is usually obvious. Looking forward, it rarely is.

Take the department seriously even when it is inconvenient. A fourth-house year will bring home, family and property forward whether or not this is the year you wanted to deal with any of them; the years where people struggle are almost always the years spent insisting the topic should have been something else. And treat the ruler's condition as a description of difficulty, never of outcome. A year whose lord is under pressure is a year that asks for more work in that department. It is not a verdict about how the department turns out, and reading it as one is the commonest mistake made with this technique.

